THE

SPORTING MAGAZINE:

OR,

MONTHLY CALENDAR

Of the Tranſactions of the TURF, the CHASE, and every other Diverſion intereſting to the Man of Pleaſure, Enterprize, and Spirit.

For JANUARY, 1794.

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Beautifully ornamented with 1. A View of Fairlop Oak, with the Society of Hainault Foreſters; 2, An exact repreſentation of the Game of Caſſino.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The Breslaw Table, respecting the Duration and pecuniary value of Life, with Observations and Applications, is received, and shall be attended to.

The natural History of the Nightingale has too much merit to be long withheld from our Readers.

We are much obliged to Mr. Hoyle, junior, for his Observations on the Game called The Comet.

The manner of Hunting the Bird of Paradise, in the Molucca Islands, is received, and shall be particularly noticed.

The Huntress, or Female Indelicacy, a Poem, by Nimrod, is wholly improper for insertion in our Miscellany.

Advice to Stockholders, by a Minute Observer, breathes too much the spirit of party to obtain a place in the Sporting Magazine. His pretended picture of this country is a most wretched daub, and too gloomy to be exhibited. This minute Observer, is very inaccurate in his calculations respecting Government Securities; and we presume his predictions will be found equally erroneous.

SPINOSA will find his Anecdote in our present Number, and his future Communications shall have every attention they merit.

Although we profess ourselves to be as good and loyal subjects as any in the kingdom, yet we think it rather hard that our Correspondent, who stiles himself a KINGSMAN, should levy contributions on our pockets for the *postage* of his Letter, when he knew we could have recourse to the same quarter for the intelligence it contained.

FAIRLOP OAK *with a Meeting of the* HAINAULT FORESTERS.

THE

Sporting Magazine

For JANUARY, 1794.

FAIRLOP TREE, &c.

WE have, for the prefent month, provided for the ornamental part of our Magazine, a beautiful engraving of the celebrated FAIRLOP OAK, on Hainault Foreft, with a meeting of the archers. The tree is of great antiquity, and when its branches were flourifhing, covered a full acre of ground; at prefent the infide is much decayed, and almoft confumed, from the fires kindled within it, on the two days fair annually held around it. The making fires were, however, put a ftopt to, three fummers ago (when a vain attempt was made to prevent the fair alfo), and the famous *tree regenerator*, at Kenfington, filled up the hollow trunk with his preparation, in order to reftore its decayed parts.—The fair is held the beginning of July, and is faid to have arifen from a fhipwright, at Wapping, more than a century ago, taking it into his head to give his workmen a treat of bacon and beans under the tree, on a particular day, which he afterwards made an annual cuftom; a number of his friends joining the party, this feftive meeting foon became a general one, and progreffively arrived to the numerous meeting we now fee it. The proceffion is from Wapping, in a large twelve oared barge, or yawl, drawn on a carriage by fix horfes, and covered with ftreamers properly manned, to Romford, where they dine

dine, and from thence enter at the eastern point of the forest, and proceed to Fairlop tree, at which they generally arrive about five o'clock in the afternoon, amidst the acclamations of an immense concourse of people, in carriages, waggons, carts, &c. &c. Rural dances, and other merriments, are going forward in different glades—the singers of adjoining parishes, making it a custom also to attend, in wains and cars, decorated with oak boughs and garlands, in order to contribute by their strains to the general conviviality of the day: in a word, nothing can exceed the beauties of this picturesque scene of rural gambols.—A *tremendous* order from the general quarter-sessions, held at Chelmsford, on the 3d of May, 1791, was issued for putting down this fair, but, as before observed, the order was disregarded, and the usual amusements took place on the 1st of July following, without any disturbances whatever.

The Rev. H. B. Dudley, has chosen this spot and neighbourhood for the imaginary scenes of his excellent dramatic Opera of the *Woodman*.

The society of Hainault Foresters meet at Fairlop, their uniform is green, with black collars, and buff waistcoats and breeches: ladies—buff waistcoats. The motto on their colours is

In medio PALMA!

COCKING.

A SPORT formerly in such estimation, that the principal inhabitants of the different counties in the kingdom, were annually opposed to each other, in matches of pecuniary magnitude; has been for a few years in a threatening state of declination, but now seems to hold out a promise of speedy renovation. The spirit of this species of SPORTING was, not half a century since, so powerfully supported, that it was no unusual circumstance to insert clauses in the leasing of farms, to insure the privilege of walking a certain number of GAME COCKS, upon the premises, and the cottages in the district. If we advert seriously to the great gratification in this sport, regulating the investigation by the standard of those sensations, to which the dictates of humanity become happily subservient, we may properly find but little to approve, as applicable to such state of refinement: but on the contrary, when divested of cynical rigidity, it is considered as one of the inscrutable dispensations of providence, it must be candidly admitted, to elucidate a variety of pages, in the great volume of REFLECTION: not more in the instructive ferocity, and determined destruction of the feathered opponents (who shrink not from the blows of each other as long as there is life), than in the variegated shades of the motley crew, so truly indiscribable, who (from the PEER to the PEASANT, the SENATOR to the SCAVENGER), during the incredible confusion, seem to be individually anxious who shall become the greatest depredator upon the property of his opposer.

Amongst the surviving COCKERS of distinction of the latter years, as well as the present day, we recollect Lord Lonsdale, (when Sir James Lowther) the Duke of Northumberland's annual mains against Mr. Fenwick, at Alnwick and Hexham; the Earl of Mexborough with Sir P. Warburton, and W. Halton, Esq.

Esq. at Manchester; His Grace of Hamilton and Sir H. G. Liddell, Bart. at Newcastle; the Earl of Derby and J. Wharton, Esq. at Preston; Mr. Bullock, Colonel Lowther, Captain Dennisthorpe, Mr. Holfords, and a great variety of equally opulent and respectable characters. In immediate succession to the commanding officers, we think it necessary to place the subordinates, passing under the denomination of FEEDERS, to whom the credit of the victory (if obtained) generally appertains. These are numerous, and the greater part of much celebrity in the scale of sporting estimation, and when that criterion is regulated by the experimental proof of superiority, in the annalized ratio of alternately or repeatedly beating each other, it will place them exactly in the following order:

GOODALL, LISTER, BROMLEY, WALTER, FISHER, RICHARDSON, RIGBY, SMALL, WATLING, and SUNLEY; there are also others of inferior estimation (particularly in the north), but these only are retained in and within reach of the metropolis; and to so great a degree of precision are their distinguishing traits ascertained, that one who may have the reputation of bringing his COCKS TO PIT, in a state of vigour and perfection, for a *short main* of three days duration, shall be found an inadequate feeder for a *long main of six*, and the cocks be observed to decline gradationally in strength every battle extended beyond the first three days, which so far proved his having attained a certain degree of excellence, beyond which he has not the power to go. It is also to be observed, as a matter much more extraordinary, that one who shall be known for a good and successful FEEDER, in the warm and genial months of spring and summer, shall be always unfortunate (not to say unskilful) in the bleak and dreary winds of winter; and these distinct qualifications are so universally known to the *sporting world*, that they are all proportionally employed in this great business of glorious uncertainty, and it is so truly uncertain, that we have repeatedly seen the three first feeders (who are of great eminence and acknowledged integrity) alternately victorious, and the palm of pre-eminence at this moment absolutely suspended between them.

To these, another class become annexed, called "*handers*," or "*setters-to*," in the pit, amongst the foremost of which we find in general estimation, FISHER, OVERTON, STRADDLING, LUN, EATON, and GLADDISH: the qualifications requisite to a distinguished superiority in this "*line of acting*," is a quick and eager eye, a pantomimic agility, a calm and serene temper, with no small portion of personal courage to resent, and pugilistic knowledge to repel any unfair practice in the course of fighting.

Having thought it necessary to state such particulars as introductory matter, it is with singular pleasure we add, that the present season opens a very extensive field for sport and speculation, at the COCK PIT ROYAL, St. James's Park, were King Charles so frequently condescended to enjoy the recreation, and entered personally into the spirit of betting with his favourite courtiers, by whom he was so familiarly surrounded So many great subscription matches have not occurred for some years past, and of the whole we shall endeavour to

to communicate the moſt accurate particulars, not only for the information of our general readers, but the ſatisfaction of thoſe who may have betted upon the events, without the power of being preſent at the moment of deciſion. In thoſe already decided, as well as thoſe to come, we have the ſatisfaction to obſerve a powerful ſtruggle for ſuperiority; and that the maſters of each match, come predetermined to ſupport their opinion with their property.

On Monday the ſixth, and five following evenings, the firſt ſubſcription match for the ſeaſon was fought, ſhewing SIXTY-ONE in the main, for five guineas a battle, and one hundred the odds. FISHER and WALTER, Feeders. Of theſe thirty-five fell into the *main*, of which ſixteen were won by WALTER, and nineteen by the former. This was a neat well fought main, and the betting in proportion, without the leaſt penurious reference to the *ſcarcity* of caſh, or the *ſeverity* of the *times*. WALTER was much the higheſt in popular eſtimation at ſtarting, and continued ſo with very trifling fluctuation till nearly the concluſion of the ſecond evening, but ſo great and unexpected was the deſtruction of FAVOURITE COCKS on the ſide of WALTER, that at the termination of the third evening, FISHER had the advantage, *ſeven* a head in the *main*, from which ſummit of ſuperiority, the fighting gradually inclined to WALTER, who (having been more accuſtomed to feed *long mains* than FISHER) loſt it by only three battles a head, and the general opinion was, had there been another night's fight to come, it muſt have terminated in his favour.

On Monday, the 13th, came on the GRAND SUBSCRIPTION MATCH, to ſhew ſixty-one in *the main*, for TEN guineas a battle, and 200 the odds. Feeders, GOODALL and LISTER. Of theſe pens of beautiful fowl, thirty-ſeven pair fell into the main, and afforded for the whole week as *fine fighting* and *rich betting*, as ever the pit produced. Amongſt the winning cocks, for hard hitting, and good blood, Mr. Barclay's, Mr. Stevenſon's, Colonel Lowther's, and Mr. Brazier's, were particularly diſtinguiſhed. Upon this main the pit were evidently prepoſſeſſed in favour of LISTER, from the firſt onſet, and ſhillings for guineas (and ſometimes double that) was the conſtant betting of the week. The leading nights LISTER took and maintained the *lead*, being at the concluſion of the *fourth* night, *three* a head in the main; when on the fifth night FORTUNE fluctuated in favour of GOODALL, who then won *five* battles out of *ſeven* (one of the ſeven proving a *drawn battle)*, and on Saturday the main terminated in favour of GOODALL, *two battles* a head.

To this immediately ſucceeded an extra battle for forty guineas, between TWO REDS of COLONEL LOWTHER'S, and VAUXHALL CLARKE; one of the moſt terrible for hard hitting and long fighting that was perhaps ever decided, proving equally uncertain in the fighting, and unexpected in the event. At *ſetting to*, the torrent of popular opinion was ſo much in favour of CLARKE, that rather than not obtain the betts they wanted (in the furor of expectation), they backed him largely at *five* and *ſix* to *four*, which were as eagerly taken in the ſcale of oppoſite opinion

nion. In fighting the odds varied as the ſucceſs of each ſtroke was almoſt alternate, till at length they roſe, and continued ſome moments at *three* to *one* upon COLONEL LOWTHER, when, after an almoſt incredible exertion on both ſides, (being as good blooded cocks as ever flew in a pit) Colonel Lowther's cock was ſuddenly cut down by a fly, totally unexpected, and died in an inſtant, when fighting with the enhancing odds of *four* and *even five* to one in his favour.

The great Subſcription Match for the whole week, to ſhew SIXTY-ONE in the MAIN, (Bromley and Walter, Feeders) beginning ſo late as Monday the 27th inſtant, we are of courſe prevented from introducing any ſtatement in the preſent number; but our Readers may rely upon finding accurate particulars in our next.

N. B It may not prove inapplicable to obſerve, that the firſt pair of cocks are *ſet to* preciſely at ſeven, and the average battles are ſix main, and two byes every evening.

On ANGLING *for* TROUT.

DIFFERENCE of climate, ſeaſon, and temperature of ſtreams and rivers, alters the time of breeding of the trout, but in the rivers near London it is generally towards the Spring, at which time they will overcome almoſt any obſtacle to get near to the ſpring head, where they heard together upon the ſhallow gravel, ſcour, and there depoſit their ſpawn. At this ſeaſon they are frequently killed by unfair means, ſuch as ſhooting, groping, and being knocked on the head by ſtones, as they play about expoſed, and frequently half out of the water.

Angling for trout may be claſſed under three heads.

With the fly, natural and artificial.
Minnow.
Worm, and other ground baits.

So much to the purpoſe, may be collected from the different treatiſes upon angling, relative to the tackle, artificial flies, &c. uſed in trout fiſhing, that it is needleſs to enter largely upon the ſubject. I ſuppoſe the angler, properly equipped with tools, the application of them is the point.

Of ARTIFICIAL FLY FISHING.

THE rod for artificial fly fiſhing, ſhould be light, ſo as to be eaſily managed with one hand, it ſhould taper gradually to the very point, and be ſo pliant that it will ſcarcely ſupport its own weight, but be a little arched towards the point; and when you have hooked a fiſh, it ſhould bend and yield to every ſpring which it makes, but regain its ſtraightneſs and elaſticity immediately upon the fiſh being looſed. Your line alſo, which is beſt very thick next the rod, ſhould diminiſh by degrees to the end of it, where it ſhould be very fine, and you ſhould have at leaſt five feet of ſilk worm gut next the fly.

Your firſt care ſhould be to keep as much out of ſight of the fiſh as poſſible, throw your line as far as you can on the water before you, and as lightly as you can, ſo that it ſhall not make the ſmalleſt ſplaſh, and let your fly fall

fall on the water, as light as a fly does from the air, and as you draw your line towards you, keep the top or point of your rod in a tremulous motion; this gives life to your fly, and deceives the trout better.

Theſe directions obſerved, and you fly in ſeaſon, you will be as certain to take a trout, if he be near the ſpot where your fly falls, as that you muſt eat to live.

Of NATURAL FLY FISHING.

IN reſpect to the flies moſt proper for this ſort of angling, it is neceſſary only to obſerve, that all are good that will bear the hook, which ſhould be of a middling ſize, and nature directs you in the choice of the moſt tempting as baits, as it is eaſieſt to collect thoſe that preſent themſelves by the water ſide in the greateſt numbers.

Your rod for natural fly fiſhing ſhould be the longeſt that can be uſed conveniently, and your line not more than half or three-fourths the length of the rod. The beſt weather for this ſort of fiſhing, is cloudy windy weather, ſuch as beats the flies upon the water, and if you can keep the wind at your back, it will carry your line out before you without your throwing it, and enable you to keep your fly dancing upon the very ſurface of the water.

If you are ever ſo lucky to meet with ſuch weather, and a whiſtling wind at your back, eſpecially when the May fly is on the water, you will take nearly every trout in the ſtream.

(To be continued.)

For the SPORTING MAGAZINE.

REMARKABLE INSTANCE *of the* STRICTNESS *with which the* ARABS *attend to the* OBLIGATIONS *of* HOSPITALITY.

A Chief, who was reſolved to plunder a caravan of French merchants, who had been commanded by the Emperor of Morocco to remove from St. Croix to Mogador, had placed a body of four hundred men, well armed, near one of the defiles, through which it was obliged to paſs. The merchants, whoſe guard was much inferior in number, muſt have fallen victims to the rapacity and cruelty of theſe robbers, if a ſudden and violent rain had not obliged the caravan to halt before they came to the paſs.

Night was approaching, when the guide propoſed to alter their courſe, and to march to the habitation of the chief, of whoſe deſign they were ignorant. On their arrival they implored his protection, and unloaded their camels. He frankly told them that he had poſted four hundred men with a view to intercept them; ſaying, that the prophet muſt have inſpired them with the thought of taking refuge with him, by which they had eſcaped a ſnare which they could not otherwiſe have avoided. He added, that they had now nothing to fear; that he was commanded by his religion to protect them, and that his men, inſtead of attacking them, ſhould eſcort them to Mogador. He kept his word, and would neither accept of any preſent himſelf, nor ſuffer any to be given to his people.

MA-

MATRIMONY.

"Y'are always falfe,
Or filly; e'en your dreffes are not more
Fantaftic than your appetites; you think
Of nothing twice; opinion you have none.
To day y'are *nice*, to-morrow not *fo free;*
Now *fmile*, then *frown;* now *forrowful*, then
glad;
Now *pleafed*, now *not;* and all you know
not why!
VIRTUE you *affect*, INCONSTANCY'S
your practice;
And when your *loofe defires* once get do-
minion,
No hungry churl feeds coarfer at a feaft;
Ev'ry *rank fool* goes down."

OTWAY.

THE wretched difappointments, the various viciffitudes that fteel as it were, into this great volume of inexplicable *myftery* and *complication*, very far exceed every idea of words, every extent of animadverfion. The heterogenious union of principles and contrafts of conftitution, that I have fo accurately delineated in my former remarks on this head, muft inevitably preclude every obtrufion of furprize, at any *new* or *fafhionable* proof of conjugal EXCESS OF AFFECTION, that I may now, or upon any future occafion, find it applicable to introduce. In a *pleafing* and *inviolable* confirmation of SACRED SOLEMNITY, the *rigid confiftency*, and the IMMACULATE OBSERVANCE of that mutual exchange of *faith* made at the altar, "to be true to each other fo long as we live," without knowing upon our *common belief*, "whether we fhall abfolutely like each other for a night or two," I beg to introduce and fubmit to the infpection of your readers, fuch recent legal occurrences as come directly under the eye of your SPORTING penetration. Divefting my remarks of any allufion to the motives that may influence parties to promulgate their fhame, and become entitled to enter the lift of "cuckolds all of a row," under a hope of exciting commiferation; I proceed firft to a recital of facts as they ftand recorded upon evidence, and under that fanction become inevitably fubject to public difquifition.

A few days fince, came on to be tried in the Court of King's Bench, a *crim. con.* caufe, that excited no fmall degree of mirth, and entertainment to the Bench, the court, and the jury. Mr. BRIGHT, who was a *fancy trimming maker*, had dedicated the major part of his life to a gratification of the *lady's wifhes*, now came forward, to obtain compenfation for *a gratification* beftowed by his WIFE upon one *Paling*, a relation; to whom, it has now evidently appeared, he had very *injudicioufly* entrufted the fuperintendance, or permitted the delagation of *all his concerns*. The plaintiff, it feems, has for fome time laboured under fuch accumulation of *afthmatic* and *fhort-winded* fenfations, as obliged him to avail himfelf of the *purer air* of ISLINGTON, for a *nocturnal refpite*; whilft the averfion of his *chafte* and *amiable* CONSORT to a *dull* and *dreary* country life influenced her to prefer a *reeky* and *remote* corner of the metropolis for HER RESIDENCE, as more directly applicable to the neutralization of a portion of that effervefcence, fo perfectly predominant in the *feat of fenfibility*.

In a perfect analization of this moft infamous degradation of human nature, (as it appeared in evidence), proof was adduced, that the parties had been joined in the *happy* and *holy* ftate of MATRIMONY for *fix and twenty years*, that a feries of uninterrupted felicity, and prolific effects had been the refult of fo *delightful* and

and *rapturous* an union. But TIME, the corroder of CARE, the softener of GRIEF, the meliorator of *all passions*, had mischievously buried in oblivion those, "sweet remembrances of early love"—the sympathetic sigh — the expressive squeeze—the languishing leer—the vibrative whisper—the *flesh* inspiring *moisture* that so benignantly beamed upon the *under lip*, and every other excitement to *short-lived sensuality*; and opened *a passage* to the prostitution of that "solemn oath at the altar made," with such "foregone conclusion" of the most "*rank*, *fond*, and *shameless* adultery," as the most fertile invention of fancy could have hardly conceived; more particularly where it might have been *erroneously believed*, that at *her age*, the hey day of her blood *was tame*, and *waited* upon the JUDGMENT. But what shall, or may not be advanced in a charitable defence of JUVENILE PROPENSITIES, or gratification of *natural passions*, if "lust thus rages in a matron's bones," and finally renders her a torment to herself, and a contemptuous outcast from that society, of which she might have constituted so respectable a part. The gradational ages of the parties were clearly defined in the following way: the husband *fifty-six*, the "dutiful obedient" wife ten years younger, and the *enamarato* of HONOR and domestic confidence, still *sixteen years* nearer to the criterion of maturity, at *thirty* years of age. Things were thus situate in August last, the *plaintiff* sleeping at Islington, the wife in town, superintending the TRIMMING MANUFACTORY, with the assistance of two male relations of her husband's; one of which we have already described in the *defendant*, and the other now appears upon the boards, 'though last not least' in the *scene* of DISCOVERY.

On Saturday evening, at a late hour, in the month before-mentioned, having retired to rest, he heard a knocking at the street door, and slipping on a part of his cloaths, was gliding down stairs to admit his relation, when (*unperceived*) he observed the *chaste keeper* of his master's HONOR proceeding to open the door, and upon the defendant's entrance, pushed him into the parlour, with a jealous reproof for staying out so much beyond a reasonable hour. Conceiving, however, he had imperfectly seen a junction *of palms*, he determined upon farther observation; returning, therefore, to his room for some addition to his cloathing, he soon resumed his post upon such remote part of the stairs as precluded discovery, when he soon perceived them approaching the "scene of all their joys," in tolerable good humour. That his mistress having deposited her "dear loved treasure," she sallied forth from the bed-chamber, and soon returned with *wine and water* or some other equally delicious assistant to *fatigue*, re-entered the room and locked the door. In this situation he remained a considerable time, when approaching the door, and distinctly hearing two voices, he waited upon the stairs near an hour; when, *exploring* his way to the MAID'S BED, and imploring her assistance to take the *stand*, he then proceeded to his UNCLE, at ISLINGTON, and there imparting the dreadful note of *cornutation*, returned with him to the *seat of action*, about five in the morning. That upon *moderately* assailing the door, the defendant from

from within awaking, (as from an involuntary ſlumber of exhauſted nature, off both *duty* and *guard*, inſtantly anſwered with HOLLOA! and received a replication of demand for admiſſion, which brought the culprits *alarmed* from the proſtituted *pillow of infamy*, jointly ſoliciting pardon from "a man more ſinned againſt that ſinning," who may be readily ſuppoſed to have ſtood

> "Like Helen in the night when Troy was ſack'd,
> Spectator of the miſchief which *ſhe made*."

A few hours ſubſequent to which, the parties eloped from the houſe of the plaintiff, and it was generally underſtood continued in an adulterous ſtate together.

On the part of the defendant it was proved, that ſome few years previous to this, the CHASTITY of his *dulcinea* was ſuppoſed to have warped *a little* from the line of HYMENEAL CONSISTENCY; for ſome *quondam* friends of the plaintiff, had been, *by him formerly* FORBIDDEN the houſe, upon ſuſpicion of *prying farther* into *family ſecrets* than was conſiſtent with the rules of hoſpitality, though not perhaps with the *preſent poliſhed* ſyſtem of *good breeding*.

The learned judge having, with his uſual elegance, accuracy, and preciſion, ſummed up the evidence, with a kind and charitable alluſion to the ungratified claims of the wife, upon an almoſt *inſolvent conſtitution*, thereby mitigating the imagined ſeverity of the caſe, in proportion to the domeſtic deficiencies of her mate, recommending moderation in damages, as no *commodity* could be conſidered of very great value that was left without even *a covering* for protection. The jury, with a conſcientious ſubmiſſion to the recommendation, found a verdict for the plaintiff, with *fifty pounds* damages; ſo that *married men* may, from the event of this cauſe, plainly perceive the ſtrict neceſſity of their appearing upon the parade—of "aſſuming a virtue if they have it not"—of keeping up at leaſt the *ſhew* of FAMILY DUTY, however they may affect to believe it more "honoured in the *breach* than the *obſervance*."

> "There's in you all that we belief of HEAVEN;
> Amazing *brightneſs*, *purity*, and *truth*,
> *Eternal joy*, and *everlaſting* LOVE."
>
> OTWAY.

I have quoted the contraſts from TOM OTWAY, to demonſtrate the verſatility of his pen, as well as to evince proof incontrovertible, that he could with an *ambidexternal* agility, vary the ſcene—*white waſh* and *black ball*, as well as any diurnal hireling, who is conſtantly retained to puff off theatrical phœnomenons.

DOCTORS COMMONS,

NEWTON againſt NEWTON.

This was a ſuit inſtituted by John againſt his wife Harriet, to obtain a divorce, *a menſa et thoro*, for adultery with RICHARD EDWARDS, and (unconſcionably) WITH OTHERS. By the depoſitions produced it appeared that the plaintiff had been married to the defendant two years, that they lived happily together for about eight months, when they began to ſquabble, diſpute, (and *perhaps fight*), as is *cuſtomary* upon ſuch occaſions; notwithſtanding which, they continued to live together, and endeavour to make *each other happy*—or COMPLETELY MISERABLE. About twelve months ſince, the plaintiff became acquainted with Mr. Edwards, who frequently

who frequently dined at his houfe, and in a fhort time afterwards was difcovered in a fituation with the lady, that left no doubt of the *adulterous fport* they had been engaged in. She afterwards eloped from the plaintiff's houfe, and committed the act of adultery with "dear, dear variety."

On the part of the accufed, a defence of recrimination was fet up, that the PLAINTIFF had refufed her the *rights of marriage* and had, for fome months prior to the difcovery of his wife's infidelity, kept a *convenient commodity*, in St. Georges's Fields; but this charge not being fatisfactorily proved, the learned judge, after hearing the pleadings from counfel on both fides, pronounced a fentence of feparation from bed and board during the natural lives of the parties.

MR. EDITOR,

HAVING unexpectedly enlarged more in the recital of thefe cafes, than was originally intended, and in fo doing obtruded, perhaps, too much upon the fpace allotted for my communications, I muft beg to poftpone the chain of elucidation, with critical remarks, to the next, or fome future number; being, with every wifh for the increafed circulation of your entertaining publication,

Your's fincerely,

BENEDICT, *the married man.*

Dec. 20. 1794.

The NATURAL HISTORY *of the* PHEASANT.

WE have already noticed this elegant bird, and pointed out the method of fairly getting poffeffion of him, by the well-aimed inftrument of death: we have alfo given a copious digeft of the laws for reftraining the poacher, by holding out the penalties and punifhments which await the unfair deftroyers of this invaluable fpecies of game; and we flatter ourfelves, that the natural hiftory of this admired creature, will not be unpleafing to our readers.

The name of this bird fufficiently indicates his origin. The pheafant is the bird of *Thafis*, a river of Colchis, in Afia Minor, from whence they were firft introduced into Europe.

If we except the peacock, the pheafant is the moft beautiful of birds, as well for the vivid colour of its plumes, as for its happy mixture and variety. It is beyond the power of the pencil to draw any thing fo bright, or gloffy, or to reprefent points fo finely blending into each other We are told that when Crœfus, king of Lydia was feated on his throne, adorned with Royal magnificence, and all the barbarous pomp of Eaftern fplendour, he afked Solon if he had ever beheld any thing fo fine. The Greek philofopher, not in the leaft moved by the objects before him, or perhaps taking a pride in his native fimplicity, replied, that, after having feen the beautiful plumage of the pheafant, he could not be aftonifhed at any other finery.

Nothing indeed can afford the eye a greater variety and richnefs of ornament than this charming creature. The iris of the eye is yellow; and the eyes themfelves are furrounded with fcarlet, fprinkled with fmall black fpecks. On the fore part of the head there are blackifh feathers, mixed with a fhining purple. The top of the head, and the upper part of the

the neck, are tinged with a darkish green, which shines like silk. In some, indeed, the top of the head is of a shining blue; and the head itself, as well as the upper part of the neck, appears sometimes blue, and sometimes green, as it is differently placed to the eye of the beholder. The feathers of the breast, the shoulders, the middle of the back, and the sides under the wings, have a blackish ground, with edges tinged of an exquisite colour, appearing sometimes black and sometimes purple according to the different lights in which it is viewed, under the purple there is a transverse streak of gold-colour. The tail, from the middle feathers to the root, is about eighteen inches in length; the legs, feet, and toes are of the colour of horn. On the legs there are black spurs, shorter than those of a cock, and a membrane connects two of the toes together The male is much more beautiful than the female.

Charming as this bird is to the eye, it is equally so when served up to the table. Its flesh is considered as the greatest dainty; and when the antient physicians spoke of the most salutary viands, they made their comparison with the flesh of the pheasant. In the woods, the hen pheasant lays from eighteen to twenty eggs in a season; but in a domestic state, she seldom produces more than ten. Its fecundity, when wild, is sufficient to stock the forest, its beautiful plumage adorns it; and its flesh retains a higher flavour from its unlimited freedom.

When full grown, the pheasant seems to feed indifferently upon whatever may present itself. A French writer assures us, that one of the king's sportsmen, shooting at a parcel of crows, that were gathered round a dead carcass, to his great surprize upon coming up, perceived that he had not killed more crows than pheasants. Some have even asserted that, such is the carniverous disposition of this bird, that when several of them are put together in the same yard, if one of them happens to become sick, or seems to be pining, all the rest will attack it, kill it, and devour it.

There is a bird called a bastard pheasant, being of a mixed breed between the pheasant and the cock; the back is reddish, mottled with brown and white; the lower parts ash-coloured, spotted with brown. There is also a variety supposed to be produced between the turkey and the pheasant, and is therefore called the turkey pheasant. Like the former, it is of a mingled colour.

There are eight or ten foreign birds known of this genus: among which the painted, or golden pheasant, is the most conspicuous for its beauty: it is smaller than the common pheasant. The general colour of the plumage is crimson, and on the head it has a beautiful yellow crest, the feathers of which appear like silk. The back and rump are yellow, the scapulars are blue; and the quills are brown marked with yellow; the tail, which is about twenty-three inches in length, is of a chesnut colour, mottled with black. The hen differs materially from the cock, the general colour of her plumage being brown. It is said to be a hardy bird, and has been known to propagate with our common pheasant.

The

The Impeyan pheafant from Hindoftan, is larger than a common fowl. On his head is an erect creft of eighteen feathers, the longeft meafuring about three inches and an half; the feathers, of the head and throat are green bronze; thofe on the middle of the neck are purple, with a copper glofs: the back and wings are of a purple colour, and the belly is black, with a green glofs; the tail is of a brownifh cinnamon colour.

One of the moft magnificent of thefe birds, is the argus pheafant: receiving its name from the quills being marked with eyes refembling thofe in the train of the peacock. The top and back part of the head and neck is a changeable blue; the back dufky, marked with reddifh brown; the throat and breaft a dull orange-colour. It is nearly the fize of a cock-turkey, and the two middle feathers of the tail are about three feet in length. This bird, the golden pheafant and the fuperb pheafant (the predominant colour of which is a beautiful green), are all natives of China.

To the Editors *of the* Sporting Magazine.

GENTLEMEN,

CONCEIVING your entertaining, and (I may add for a *fportfman*) ufeful performance, a proper vehicle for conveying the following information to the admirers of that noble animal THE HORSE, I fend it to you, in preference to any other periodical work; and if you think proper to infert it, I may, in all probability, become an occafional contributor.

I am, &c.

Account of MAHRATTA HORSES *and* DEALERS.

THE MAHRATTAS have EXCELLENT HORSES, which are to be met with in great abundance, but the market price is very high. Thofe moft efteemed by them, are bred on the banks of the river *Bheema*, which runs in the *Kaifhtna*, about thirty cofs weft of *Bidder*, in the province of *Bhaulky*. They are of a middling fize and ftrong: but are, at the fame time, a very handfome breed; generally of a dark bay, with black legs, and are called from the place which produces them *Bheemertedy* horfes, fome of them bear a price as high as 5000 rupees. Mares are commonly the deareft. In every place dependant on the *Mahrattas*, there are ftables and herds of horfes; and in moft places there are herds, the property of the PAISHWASA; thefe herds are called in the Mahratta language *Jhundy*, and are compofed of the horfes of feveral individuals, who fend them to feed on the open plains, as along as they have no immediate occafion for them, but thofe which are the property of the PAISHWAH are called, as well as the places where they are kept, *Paugah*. The principal men have alfo herds of horfes on their refpective jagheers, and enlift horfemen, who ferve on them in time of war, of whom the bodies of horfe called *Bargeer* are compofed. Accompanied by their chiefs, they offer their fervices to government, and each of them has from a thoufand to two thoufand horfes of their own. With refpect to the *dealers* in them, we muft do them the juftice to fay, that they difplay in every refpect a degree of duplicity and cunning, that muft

must even place the immaculate Smithfield dealer in the back ground.

To the EDITORS *of the* SPORTING MAGAZINE.

GENTLEMEN,

I BEG leave to inform you, there is coming up to town by the Norwich coach, one who has lived most part of his time in our neighbourhood, if, indeed, he is not a native of this county, but of that I cannot be positive; neither is it very material, as I can, notwithstanding, give a tolerable good account of him. His conduct has, in time past, been, though not totally irreprehensible, as innocent at least as that of many others. Some little complaints I have heard of his depredations in the gardens of his neighbours; but yet, they have been ready to acknowledge, at the same time, they believed he meant no harm. It is true he was rather wild in his youth, but never gay or extravagant in his dress; living wholly in the country, he has no idea of the amusements of the town, but being remarkably light of foot, he has not been always able to absent himself from *field diversions*, nor yet has he indulged himself in them; for upon some occasions he has been much sought, and when they have just seen him, or as it were had him *in view*, it is surprising how the rest of the company have exulted, and much has been said in the words of the poet on other joyous occasions, "The clamours of men, horses and dogs." But, although every body else has appeared highly delighted, I have reason to believe, he never enjoyed peace of mind at such riotous doings, for he has always endeavoured to leave them as soon as possible: sometimes he has stolen away and left them at *fault*, for want of his company. At other times, a more select party have compelled him to take the lead, and go greater lengths than he approved, which has still been attended with uneasy sensations, and frequently has he been *turned*; but lately, on an occasion of that sort, he received so severe a check in the midst of his career, that it entirely put a *stop* to his progress in that way, and to tell you the truth, is the cause of his leaving the country at this time. Though much altered in that respect, I believe he is still what may be called *hair-brained*, which I suppose you will discover before he has long been in your company. Unaccustomed to convivial meetings and at the same time, naturally shy and timid, even in the country, it is not to be expected that he will be capable of entertaining a very large society, but a few select friends will, I believe, be very well satisfied with what they can obtain from him or pick out of him; and let me tell you, however unluckily it may seem, he will bear a *roasting* as well as most; only take this information along with you, as he is a mere rustic, and has indulged his appetite in the country without scruple, though with strict temperance, it may not be amiss to fill his belly with pudding, and perhaps a glass of wine may not be ill-bestowed upon him, before you try that experiment.

You have doubtless heard of the family of the *Hares*, I have some notion that one of them attained to considerable dignity in the church; but the subject of this

this letter, though of the same name, is not of that family, but of one more ancient; and though they cannot boast of parliamentary influence, titles, or places and pensions from government, they have always been admitted with great complacency at the best tables, and can boast of regal honours in this respect. Neither have they been disregarded by the legislature, the nobility and gentry having put it out of their power (as far as acts of parliament, with united associations to enforce them, can do it), of the small vulgar to exercise their merciless temper upon them, as they were apt to do, if they could only extort from them a meal's meat by it, and sometimes merely for the diversion of following them from place to place; and yet I believe, if they were to speak all the truth, they would find themselves more frequently injured, and more wantonly persecuted by their professed protectors, than any other men; and I may add, perhaps, they are not alone in that predicament. But as your entertaining Miscellany is not a vehicle for political or party reflections, either on men or measures, I shall conclude this letter by wishing the subject of it may arrive safe in town, reach your office, and afford you as much satisfaction as I have, in seizing this opportunity of subscribing myself

Your's, &c.

One of the Family of the Hares.

Jan. 20, 1794.

Veterinary College.

(Continued from page 7.)

THAT there were promising traits of national utility in the origin of its institution, will be readily admitted, had the establishment, by a well-digested deliberation been divested of the *personal ostentation*, *self interest*, or *mental ambition* we have already presumed to suspect; all which, in fact, by their distinct devotees, have visibly operated to the disadvantage of so laudable and magnificent an embarkation. The dismissal of the original secretary, Mr. Huntingford, and subsequent disorder amongst, and want of subordination in English pupils, to the rigidity of *French* discipline, seem to have been but "ill-fated omens" of the misfortunes that immediately followed, as indications of abortion too generally known. For in the very zenith of popularity, and meredian of attraction, to which, under the fascinating influence of *fashion*), the people of this kingdom are so remarkable for becoming the most arrant and subservient slaves; with a list of more than *nine hundred* subscribers, and at the very moment of exultation, when every wish of each subscriber was to be gratified, and the celebrity of the college, was to have trumpetted the names of the founders to the admiration of *posterity*, an "adverse stroke of fate, shook the battlements to the foundation." Whether an ill-founded report of the professor's (M. Sain Bell) being *an impostor*; a discovery by some of the more enlightened subscribers of his erroneous system of shoeing, (certainly ill adapted to the English roads); or the establishment of an Equestrian Receptacle and Operative Farriery in the same neighbourhood, (by a gentleman who had acquired no small portion of public opinion, by his veterinarian writings) agitated his spirits, and produced *inflammatory*

tory fever, is very far beyond the limits of human investigation; but certain it is, he was suddenly attacked and rapidly carried off, to

> "That bourne from whence no traveller returns."

giving an irreparable blow to the institution, and the eager expectation of the most zealous advocates for its attaining the summit of perfection, and becoming an object of national utility.

From the general consternation, occasioned by so unexpected and so serious an event, the President, Vice-President, Directors, Committees, and subscribers, had scarcely recovered their first respiration, when DEATH aimed a second stroke at the remaining ground-work of HOPE, and suddenly cut down that great and worthy ornament of Society, Mr. JOHN HUNTER, who was not only a most earnest, but most powerful promoter of the whole. This accumulated loss, opened an immediate field for despondency, that neither the efforts of individuals, or the industry of the aggregate, has yet been enabled to close. The late separation of its various members, whether in camps, campaigns, or rural retirements, has contributed but little to the distant chance of reparation: a very slender ray of consolation, to those who so patriotically produced specie for a building of so much extent, now promising so little profit or perfection, upon former speculation.

Having introduced the unfortunate circumstance of the deaths of the two men, calculated to become the very life, and fountain of support and success to the whole, and one so immediately subsequent to the other; it becomes directly applicable, (without adverting to the little probability of procuring successors, and advocates of equal ability and estimation), to take into consideration, and make such remarks as may naturally occur upon the internal regulations of the college, and how far they were calculated to promote the success of the undertaking for which they were formed. It absolutely creates matter of surprise, to those in the habits of reflection, how men of so much LEARNING, EMINENCE, and EXPERIENCE, as appear in their lists of directors and committees, could ever adopt a scheme so replete with heterogeneous principles, as to preclude every probability of success, and permanent utility, could they have been carried even into a temporary execution.

Long experience has convinced every equestrian observer, more particularly every enlightened sportsman, that the shoeing of horses, or the science of Operative Farriery, has seldom or ever been undertaken or practised in this kingdom, but by that order of men, who have never been blessed with the advantages of education. The reason of this is, to every rational investigator, too evidently clear to require elucidation; refined sensations, and a solicitation of danger, do not directly correspond, as the one prudently points out the necessity of avoiding the other. And, upon this reasoning, it is not only fair to conclude, but the trial of centuries upon centuries have convinced us, that none but those without property, and without the exhilerating polish of mental improvement, will condescend to the most dangerous of all manual employments. It

It is well known, and muſt be admitted, that there is no art or trade ſo ill requited, in proportion to the trouble and danger, as the SHOEING OF HORSES, and the interpoſing judgment of operative farriers; which may be conſidered a demonſtrative proof, why it has always remained in the hands of the moſt illiterate, and neceſſitous part of the community. So ſtrictly conformable to truth is this obſervation, that not one in twenty, either in town or country, has hardly ever left behind him a ſingle *fifty pounds*, as a conſolation and ſupport to his family. Excluſive of theſe palpable inconveniences, and diſcouraging proſpects, to a man of common underſtanding and emulation, let us fairly advert to the inferior rank he is always condemned to hold in the ſcale of ſociety; his aſſociation is immediately deſtined to the loweſt claſſes of mankind; and, conſcious of his inſignificance, he feels himſelf very little ſuperior to the *ſcavenger* and the *night-man*. If this is the eſtimation VETERINARIAN PROFESSORS have hitherto been held in, what are we to expect from *modern reformation* and *college education*, when even thoſe who ſtudiouſly endeavour to reſcue the art from IGNORANCE and BARBARITY, ſeem likely to be rewarded with the honourable appellation, or intentional ſtigma of "HORSE DOCTOR."——Having taken this ground as the baſis of obſervation, we naturally proceed to conſider the ſtate and condition of thoſe, who voluntarily place their children to ſo hazardous and ſo unprofitable an employment. It cannot be denied, that the poor feel equal parental attachment with the rich, and would probably venture as far, *or farther*, to prevent their offspring from embarking in a *ſervice of danger*. Here there is no alternative; *neceſſitas non habet legem* is the preſſing fact; the vulgar, but no leſs incontrovertible adage, that "*half a loaf is better than no bread*," and a *bad trade* is better than *none*, are ſo truly in point, that the adoption is made upon compulſion, and few have ever become *knights of the anvil*, but from the eaves of a *cottage*, or the walls of a *workhouſe*. If the veracity of this aſſertion is doubted, let the queſtion be aſked, if ever a *rich man*, or even a man in moderate circumſtances, worth barely a few hundreds, who had given his ſon but a tolerable education, ever indulged the idea of placing him to a *blackſmith*? It is to be preſumed that the principles already ſtated, upon which the poſition is formed, are perfectly heterogeneous, and that a ſituation ſo contradictory has *never yet*, and moſt probably *never will* happen. It is true, we obſerved from the pen of a merry correſpondent (page 64, of our laſt number but one), upon whoſe veracity we are willing to rely; that "it is no ſmall gratification of his ambition, that he has ſurpaſſed the *dignified few* in utility; by having alternately dreſſed a PEERESS's finger, and a HORSE's heel on the ſame day, for many in ſucceſſion, and ultimately derived much greater credit and emolument from the one than the other." This univerſality of genius, this happy poſſeſſion of public opinion, perhaps appertains only to the individual, and may be conſidered (it is "moſt devoutly to be wiſhed") a portending ray of early improvement to the VETERINARY SCIENCE, and a ſpeedy oblivion

to

to the paltry ſtigma of diſgrace and diſtinction, that has been hitherto annexed to the practice. But to do this, other more rational means muſt be adopted, than thoſe ſo crudely propoſed and haſtily adopted at the COLLEGE; from whence every hope, every expectation of elegant practice and permanent improvement was derived. A variety of inſtances might be adduced to produce conviction, that, the more the mind becomes expanded by the ſublunary rays of refinement, the leſs it is diſpoſed to encounter the ſubſervience of drudgery, and mere mortifying ſenſations of partial indifference, or popular contempt; from which conſideration it may be fairly and candidly inferred, that very few, if any, who become proficients in the ſtudy of phyſic, anatomy, and the peculiar property of medicine, will condeſcend to blend that knowledge with the operative art, but conſider it ſuperior to the dignity of the *leathern apron*, the *vulcanian ſledge*, the act of *ſhoeing*, and the variety of inferior offices annexed to ſuch department, as has ever, and muſt continue in the ſame ſtate of ſubordination. Without a wiſh to protract the ſubject beyond the bounds of propriety, it muſt have become exceedingly plain to that great body of reſpectable ſubſcribers, who have ſo largely patronized ſo laudable an undertaking, that two diſtinct modes of reduction, *muſt* be ultimately adopted, to afford the much wiſhed for STAMP OF SUCCESS; and when the character of the VETERINARIAN PROFESSOR (or equeſtrian phyſician), and *operative farrier*, become as diſtinct as the dignified phyſician, and the pharmaceutic drudge of an apothecary; and when the different purſuits, neceſſary to the attainment of general knowledge upon each ſubject are complete, by the parties, whoſe abilities are peculiarly adapted to the departments they are intended to fill; then, and not till then, the improvement of Farriery will become an object of national utility, and an honour to the inhabitants of a kingdom, to whom it has ſo long remained a ſubject of almoſt indelible diſgrace.

The NATURAL HISTORY *of the* COCK.

NO animal in the world has greater courage than the cock, when oppoſed to one of its own ſpecies; and, in every part of the world where refinement and poliſhed manners have not entirely taken place, cock-fighting is a principal diverſion. In China, India, the Philippine Iſlands, and all over the Eaſt, cock-fighting is the ſport and amuſement even of kings and princes. With us it is declining every day. It is the opinion of many, however, that we have a bolder and more valiant breed than is to be found elſewhere; but the truth is, they have cocks in China as bold, if not bolder, than ours; and, what would ſtill be more conſidered as valuable among cockers here, they have more ſtrength and leſs weight.

So great is the variety in the race of cocks, that even the naturaliſt himſelf finds it difficult to point out its diſtinctive characters. If we take for the mark of the genus, its four toes, what then becomes of that peculiar ſpecies which has five on each foot? if the creſt and peculiar

poſition

position of the tale be assumed, there is a species wholly destitute of this character. If we would say that the cock is only feathered to the lower joint of the leg, there are some breeds which are feathered even to the toes, and that of Japan has feathers to the very nails. In fine, if we would class him among granivorous birds, we must even allow some latitude, since he devours greedily, not only earth worms, but in many instances, both flesh and fish.

Of all birds, the cock seems to be the oldest companion of mankind, to have been first reclaimed from the forest, and taken to supply the accidental failure of the luxuries or necessaries of life. As he has been longest, therefore, under the care of man, so perhaps he exhibits the greatest number of varieties, there being hardly two birds of this species which exactly resemble each other in form and plumage.

It does not certainly appear when the cock was first domesticated in Europe; but it is generally agreed that we first had him in our western world, from the kingdom of Persia. The cock is found wild in the harbour of Tinian, in many others of the Indian ocean, and in the woods on the coast of Malabar: his plumage is black and yellow, and his comb and wattles yellow and purple. There is another peculiarity also in those of the Indian woods, their bones, which when boiled with us are white, as every one knows, in these are as black as ebony. Whether this tincture proceeds from their food, as the bones are tinctured red by feeding upon madder, we leave to the discussion of others: satisfied with the fact, let us decline speculation.

The egg of a common hen weighs one ounce six drams; upon breaking the shell, a fine membrane is found, which lines the shell; next to this is the external white, which is the shape of the egg; and then the internal white, which is rather rounder, and incloses the yolk, which is quite round. Each of these parts is surrounded with a fine membrane.

The pretended cock eggs, said to be without a yolk, and which, as credulity reports, if set under a hen, would probably produce a serpent, are no other than the first production of a pullet, too young for laying, or the last effort of an old hen, which has been exhausted by her own fecundity.

The hen seldom clutches a brood of chickens above once in a season, though instances have been known in which they have produced two. The number of eggs a domestic hen will lay, in the year, are above two hundred, provided she be well fed, and supplied with water and liberty. It is not of much consequence, whether she be trodden by the cock or not, she will continue to lay, though all the eggs of this kind can never, by hatching, be brought to produce a living animal.

No sooner is an egg laid than it begins to transpire, and loses, in a short time, some grains of its weight. If it continues exposed to the air, the inside hardens and contracts a bad flavour, but, to prevent this effect, a little varnish, or any oily matter, should be rubbed on the outside of the shell, to shield it from the air. It is obvious, however, that the varnish must be removed if the eggs are meant for hatching.

The

The hen, if left to herſelf, makes her neſt without any care; a hole ſcratched in the ground, among a few buſhes, is the only preparation ſhe makes for this ſeaſon of patient expectation. Nature, almoſt exhauſted by its own fecundity, ſeems to inform her of the proper time for hatching, which ſhe herſelf teſtifies by a clucking note, and by diſcontinuing to lay. If left entirely to herſelf, the hen would ſeldom lay above twenty eggs in the ſame neſt, without attempting to hatch them. While ſhe ſits, ſhe carefully turns her eggs, and even removes them into different ſituations; till at length, in about three weeks, the young brood begin to give ſigns of a deſire to burſt their confinement.

The formation of the embryo is curious. During the firſt day's incubations, and even when the egg has been under the hen a few hours, the head of the chicken may be ſeen gradually uniting itſelf to the ſpine of the back. On the ſecond day, the firſt proceſſes of the vertebræ may be diſcerned, like ſo many ſmall globulas diſpoſed on each ſide of the ſpine. The firſt commencement of the wings, and the umbilical veſſels, may alſo be diſtinguiſhed by their dark colour. The neck and breaſt alſo ſhew themſelves, and the head continues to increaſe in ſize. The third day, the whole is more diſtinct and enlarged; and the heart, which is ſuſpended at the opening of the breaſt, is obſerved to beat; veins and arteries may alſo be perceived about the brain, and the ſpinal marrow begins to extend itſelf through the ſpine. The eyes are conſiderably formed on the fourth day; the pupil, the cryſtalline, and vitreous humours may be diſtinctly ſeen; the wings increaſe, the thighs appear, and the whole begins in ſome degree to be covered with fleſh. The fifth day, the body is covered with a glutinous or unctuous fleſh, the heart is retained within a very fine membrane, which alſo extends itſelf all over the breaſt. On the ſixth day, the ſpinal marrow, in two diviſions, continues to advance along the trunk; the liver, which at firſt was whitiſh, becomes of a darker hue; both ventricles of the heart beat, and the body of the chicken is covered with ſkin, in which may be diſcovered the points of the feathers. On the ſeventh day may be perceived the beak, the brain, the wings, and the thighs; and even the feet have then acquired a perfect form. The lungs appear at the end of the ninth day, and are of a whitiſh colour; the muſcles of the wings begin to form on the tenth day, and the feathers continue to ſhoot out. On the eleventh day, the arteries, which before are ſeparate, unite to the heart. The reſt of the proceſs conſiſts only in an increaſe and more perfect developement of the ſeveral parts, till they acquire ſufficient vigour to break the ſhell.

The beſt and ſtrongeſt chickens are the firſt candidates for liberty, the weakeſt follow, and ſome even die in their priſon. When all are produced, the hen leads them forth to provide for themſelves; her affections and pride ſeem then to alter her very nature, and correct her imperfections; no longer voracious or cowardly, ſhe refuſes to indulge herſelf with ſuch food as her tender young can ſwallow, and flies boldly at every creature which

which ſhe apprehends may do them an injury.

The greateſt number of chickens which a good hen can rear, and clutch at one time, is ten or twelve; but as this bears no proportion to the number of her eggs, ſchemes have been imagined to clutch all the eggs of a hen, and thus turn her produce to the greateſt advantage. The contrivance we mean, is the artificial method of hatching chickens in ſtoves, as practiſed at Grand Cairo; or in a chymical laboratory, properly graduated, as has been effected by Reaumur. At Grand Cairo, they thus produce ſix or ſeven thouſand chickens at a time; where as they are brought forth in their mild ſpring (which is warmer than our ſummer), the young ones thrive without clutching. But it is otherwiſe in our colder and unequal climate; the little animals may, without much difficulty, be hatched from the ſhell, but almoſt all of them periſh when excluded.

The cock is a ſhort-lived animal; but how long theſe birds would live, if left to themſelves, is not well aſcertained by any hiſtorian. As they are kept principally for profit, and in a few years become unfit for generation, there are a few who will, from mere motives of curioſity, make the tedious experiment of maintaining a proper number till they die. Aldrovandus hints their age to be about ten years; and that may probably be the extent.

To ANGLE *for the* PIKE.

(*Continued from page* 124.)

THE pike ſpawns about the end of February, or the beginning of March. He is called a jack till he is twenty-four inches in length.

The beſt pike are thoſe which are found in rivers; thoſe in ponds are much inferior; the larger they are, the coarſer the food, and ſo *vice verſa.* They feed upon fiſh, frogs, and a weed called pickerel.

The pike is a ſolitary, melancholy, bold fiſh, always being by himſelf, and never ſwimming in ſhoals, or in company with other fiſh. He delights in a ſtill, ſhady, unfrequented water, and uſually lies near, or amongſt weeds; ſuch as flags, bulruſhes, candocks, reeds, or in the green fog which ſometimes covers ſtanding waters, though he will occaſionally puſh out into the tranſparent ſtream. He is ſometimes caught at the top, and ſometimes in the middle; and often, eſpecially in cold weather, at the bottom.

There are two ways of angling for the pike, by the *ledger bait*, and the *walking bait.* The *ledger bait*, is that fixed in one certain place, and which the angler may leave, to angle for other fiſh. Of this kind, the beſt is ſome living bait, as a dace, gudgeon, roach, or frog; and of frogs the yelloweſt is the beſt. If you bait with a fiſh, ſtick the hook through his upper lip, or back fin, then faſtening it to a ſtrong line, ten or twelve yards in length, tie the other end to ſome ſtake in the ground, or ſtump of a tree, near the haunt of the pike, letting the line paſs over the fork of a ſtick, placed for the purpoſe, and ſuſpending the hook by a yard of the line in the water; but ſo as, when the pike bites, the fork may give way, and let him have line enough to go to his hole, and pouch the bait.

But

But if you bait with a frog, put the arming wire in at his mouth, and out of his gill, then tie the frog's leg, above the upper joint, to the armed wire.

The *walking bait* is that which the angler attends to himſelf, and is called *trowling*; from the French of *troller*, to move, or walk about. But, before I proceed any further in this mode of angling for the pike, permit me to give a deſcription of the kind of rod, line, and hooks, neceſſary to be uſed.—Your rod muſt be a ſtrong one, and ringed for the line to paſs through, and about three yards and a half in length; your line about thirty yards in length, wound upon a winch, to be placed on the butt-end of your rod, and with which you may always keep your line to any length; and at the end of your line, next the hook let there be a ſwivel. The two moſt general hooks are formed and baited thus: The *firſt* is no more than two ſingle hooks, (though you may buy them of one piece of wire) tied back to back, with a ſtrong piece of gimp between the ſhanks. In whipping the gimp and hooks together, make a ſmall loop, and take into it two links of chain, about the eighth of an inch diameter; and in the lower link (by means of a ſtaple of wire), faſten by the greater end a bit of lead, of a conical figure, and angular at the point.

The *ſecond hook* may be either ſingle or double, with a long ſhank, and leaded two inches up the wire, with a piece of lead about a quarter of an inch ſquare, at the greater or lower end, fixed to the ſhank an armed wire, about four inches long, and at the top of the wire about half a yard of gimp, with a loop at the top of that: to bait this hook, you muſt have a braſs needle, about ſeven inches long; put the loop of the gimp on the eye, or ſmall curve of the needle, then thruſt it into the mouth of the fiſh, and bring it out at his tail, drawing the gimp and wire along with it, till the lead is fixed in the belly of the bait-fiſh, and the hook, or hooks, are come to his mouth; then turn the points of the hooks towards his eyes, if a double hook, but if a ſingle one, directly in a line with his belly, and tie his tail to the arming wire very neatly with white thread. Whether the hook be double or ſingle, I always put a ſmall piece of a worm on the point, or points of it; which prevents their pricking the pike when he takes it, which would make him leave it in an inſtant. To bait the former, put the lead into the mouth of the bait-fiſh, and ſew it up; the fiſh will live ſome time; and though the weight of the lead will keep his head downwards, he will ſwim almoſt as freely as if he was at liberty. Either of the former hooks being baited, and faſtened to the ſwivel, caſt it into the water, and keep it in conſtant motion; ſometimes letting it ſink, and ſometimes raiſing it gradually, chiefly throwing it into the parts of the pond, meer or river, where the haunts of the pike are moſt uſual; as near the banks, under ſtumps of trees, by the ſide of bulruſhes, water-docks, weeds, or buſhes; but, in any of theſe places, you need never make above a trial or two for him, for if he is there, he will immediately ſeize the bait. When he has taken it, give him line, and let him run to his hole and pouch it. Allow him, in general, about five minutes law, then ſtrike him, and divert yourſelf with him as you pleaſe.

But,

But, if after the pike has run off with the bait to his hole, and refts there but about a minute, and then runs quickly off with it again, do not ftrike him till he has refted a fecond time; and not then, till the five minutes are expired, unlefs he runs off again before they are. If he fhould do fo, draw a tight line, and ftrike him immediately: if he refifts very much, give him line enough which will foon exhauft his ftrength; and when you pull him towards you, do not do it with violence, for then he will launch and plunge in fuch a manner, that he will tear away his hold; and even his entrails, if he is hooked there; but if you feel him come eafily towards you, wind up your line till you fee him, then if he ftruggles again very much, give him line again; and fo proceed till you have killed him; and by this method a period to his life may be expected.

(To be concluded in our next.)

Ancient Custom *of* Bear-Baiting, *or* Bear Hunting, *in the* Vicinity *of* London.

To the Editors *of the* Sporting Magazine.

Gentlemen,

YOU have entertained your readers with an account of a Bear chace in North America, of another in Ruffia, and of a third in Bagneres; permit me, therefore, to mention, that formerly in this country, bear-baiting, or bear hunting was a common diverfion in the fkirts of the capital of this country.

On the Bank-fide, in Southwark, ftood Paris Garden, one of the ancient play-houfes of our metropolis. It feems to have been much frequented on Sundays, One Crowley, a poet, of the reign of Henry VIII. informs us, that in this place were exhibited bear-baitings, as well as dramatical entertainments; and particularly on Sundays, as they were till very lately at the *Combas des Animaux*, at Paris.

Not far from this place of amufement was the Bear-garden, in which was alfo a place for baiting of bulls; the *Britifh Circi*. "Herein," fays Stow*, "were kept beares, bulls, and "other beafts to be bayted, as "alfo maftives in feveral kenels, "nourifhed to bayt them. Thefe "beares and other beafts are "there kept in plots of ground "fcaffolded about for the be-"holders to ftand fafe." In old maps thefe *circi* are engraven.

Bear-baiting made one of the amufements of the romantic age of Queen Elizabeth. It was introduced among the princely pleafures of Kenilworth, in 1575, where the drole author of the account introduces the bear and dogs, deciding their ancient grudge, *per duellum* —— "Well Syr, (fays he) the Bearz wear brought foorth intoo coourt, the dogs fet too them, too argu the points eeven face to face; they had learned councell alfo a both parts: what may then be coounted parciall that are retained but a to fyde, I ween. No very feers both ton and toother eager in argument: if the dog in pleadyng woold pluk the bear by the throte, the bear with travers woold claw him again by the fkaip, confefs and a lift; but a voyd a coold not that waz bound too the bar: and hiz counfell tolld him that it coold bee to him no poliecy in pleading. Thearfore thus with fending and prooving with plucking

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* Survaie, 770.

and

and tugging, ſkratting, and byting, by plain tooth and nayll, a to ſide and toother, ſuch erſpes of blood and leather waz thear between them, az a moonths licking I ween wyl not recover, and yet remain az far oout az ever they wear. It was a ſport very pleazaunt of theez beaſtz: to ſee the bear with his pink nyez leering after hiz enmiez approach, the nimbleſs and wayt of the dog too take hiz auauntage, and the fors and experiens of the bear agayn to auoid the aſſauts: if he wear bitten in one place, hoow he woold pynch in an oother too get free: that if he wear taken onez, then what ſhyft with byting with clawying, with roring, toſſing and tumbling, he woold work to wynde himſelf from them; and when he was loſe, to ſhake hiz earz twyſe or thryſe wyth the blud and the ſlaver about hiz fiznamy was a matter of a goodly releef*."

This was an amuſement for perſons of the firſt rank: our great Princeſs Elizabeth thought proper to cauſe the French ambaſſadors to be carried to this theatre, to divert them with theſe ſpectacles.

Not far from theſe ſcenes of paſtime, was the Bordello, or ſtews, permitted and openly licenſed by government, under certain laws or regulations; but that I may not trouble your readers with matters foreign to the plan of your Miſcellany, permit me to ſubſcribe myſelf

Your's, &c. A. Z.

On Fashionable Gaming-Houses.

THIS letter is ſent from a remote part of the kingdom, relative to a point which has cauſed much varied debate, and much intricate controverſy, among the inhabitants of the little village where I reſide. The ſubject I mean is that of ladies, of the firſt rank and character, having lately eſtabliſhed gaming aſſemblies at their own houſes, and invited every deſcription; wealth, poverty, innocence, and vice indiſcriminately.

For this information we are indebted to thoſe accurate vehicles of intelligence, the London newſpapers: the majority among us are inclined entirely to diſcredit the report, and to believe that bad as the great metropolis is ſuppoſed to be, ſuch a violation of decency and propriety, ſuch an enormous deviation from moral fitneſs, cannot be found even in that corrupted ſcene.

At our little club, where the principal perſons of the hamlet meet, the matter was lately inveſtigated; the vicar remarked that, during his reſidence in London, he had witneſſed hateful vice, and calamitous miſery; he had ſeen the caprices of the imagination, ſhift like the varying colours of the camelion; and the ſtandard of morality, regulated by little elſe than pride, prejudice, and opinion. "But by no wild flight," ſaid he, "was I ever induced to ſuppoſe, that the aggregate of faſhion and character, in the female world, would ever eſtabliſh gaming-houſes at their own houſes, would authoriſe a ſcene, where every reſpectable relative, every innocent female juſt riſing into life, muſt be irreſiſtibly drawn by the powerful ties of family connections, or intimate friendſhip. But, perhaps, the ſtory has been exaggerated; chriſtianity induces me to think, that the ladies are actuated by motives

* Princely pleaſures of Kenilworth, 22.

motives very different from those which the illiberal herd, whether of the great vulgar, or the small, may attribute to them. These tables may only be fixed a few times in the year. The well known custom, by which the Spartans exposed the vice of drunkenness, is doubtless present to the minds of our grave matrons. When the variations of play shall take place, when the agitations which the loss of thousands, or tens of thousands, may cause in the placid countenances of even noble and right honourable gamesters shall be seen, then will the wives of our senators bring the rising generation of female life to the view of these extravagancies; and, without suffering them to engage in the scene, impress on their tender minds, by the powerful energy of example, the most ineffable contempt for the idle dissipations of chance, and the profoundest dread of those fatal evils which gaming so frequently produces."

"If such should be their design," said the physician of our little scene, who sat on my right hand, "the intention is highly laudable; but the intimacy into which my profession at one time led me with the great, renders me very doubtful when I hear of any schemes of reformation originating with them. The ladies in higher life seem to have rivalled that happy æra of feminine corruption, when Juvenal lashed the enormities of Roman wickedness. Against particular instances of excellence, I do not except. If the husband can gallant with a thousand different mistresses, the wife makes as little scruple of diverting her languor, or her jealousy, in the varied society of as many agreeable gentlemen. They seem now resolved that the ruin of patrimonies shall no longer be confined to the men, that to dissipate the proud boasts of hereditary possession, derived from *knights and barons bold*, shall be within the power of their atchievement."

"You are a splenetic misanthrope, Doctor," replied a young gentleman, "the most sordid miser, or antiquated virgin, could not have given a more disgusting description: if the report which has given rise to our conversation, be really true, some temperate declaration should be made to the ladies; somewhat which should unite the most submissive delicacy with that plain truth which the urgency of the case seems to demand."

Little more passed upon this subject worthy of attention: that some representation should be made, seemed the general opinion; and if any person was to step forwards to moralize on such an occasion, might he not deliver himself in words somewhat similar to the following? "The scene of higher life is already sufficiently corrupted, but if the practice of gaming in private houses, and under the respectable sanction of ladies of character and honour, should prevail, every possibility of improvement, or reformation, will be cut up by the roots; a general spirit of inattention to every thing important, will absolutely and finally prevail; the purest innocence will imperceptibly be sullied; the brightest virtue will inadvertently be obscured. The single will contract a habit of mind ominous to every future prospect, the married will go hand in hand to destruction. To be convinced of the truth of this description, the ladies will require but a few moments

moments of reflection. We will suppose a married lady to engage in these parties; before attentive to every proper duty, she will soon find her mind relaxed from the necessary care requisite to even the least essential obligation. If the husband should be profligate and debauched, the consequences are obvious; if he should be of a different character, his mind must be alienated from the partner of his heart: in either case the termination will be alike. But the evil which may happen to those already settled in life, is not half the evil to be dreaded: the young and tender mind, the innocent female stepping forwards, adorned with every grace of ingenuousness and modesty, are the objects most to be alarmed for: they will lose every benefit of early culture; they will enter the seductive scene of visionary wealth, guarded by no instructions against its corruptive power. The endearing influences of motherly affection will be lost; every advantage of precept and example; every thing sacred swallowed up by the devouring vortex of blind and destructive chance.

Amidst all the variations of moral character, I should always wish to consider the ladies as least criminal; their good sense will induce them to listen to this remonstrance; to stem the torrent of this hateful usage. I hope, and have no doubt, that they will properly reflect, and resolve to act with a propriety which may prevent any heavy blame from devolving upon them, in the present eventful period of society.

Major Semple.

ALTHOUGH this *immaculate* character never signalized himself on the TURF, or made use of his deceptive powers to the injury of any of its frequenters—yet the following particulars respecting him, since the publication of his life, may not be unworthy the notice of the readers of the Sporting Magazine.

He went to Paris about November 92,—called himself Colonel Lisle,—had a letter of recommendation from Alderman Macaulay, by which he got introduced to Pethion, the then Mayor, who recommended him to the Minister at War, and introduced him to all the principal political characters at Paris.

He offered to raise a regiment of Hussars, into which Dr. Maxwell readily entered, by purchasing the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel of the *soi-disant* Colonel.

Dr. Maxwell soon discovering, that the person of whom he had bought his commission, was the *famous* Major Semple, immediately made it public, by having placards pasted up in the Palais Royal, and different parts of Paris, offering a reward for the apprehension of the *ingenious* Major, who, however, made his escape with the Lieutenant D's purchase-money.

By some means or other he contrived, in the course of last winter, to be received in the Austrian lines as a deserter from the French service, and brought with him such perfect information of the state of Dumourier's army, and the disaffection then prevailing therein, that he was received in full confidence. He styled himself Major Delle. At the battle of Tirlemont he was put at the head of a squadron of Hussars, and performed the met morable service of driving the

French

French from their strong battery, and taking three pieces of cannon. After this singular exploit, he was received at head-quarters, in a manner most flattering to his wishes. He was afterwards constantly at the table of the hereditary Prince of Orange, at Brussells, and had the honour to hand the princess to her carriage, in preference to most of the military suite. He was at this time received by Lord Auckland, the British minister; and, on the Stadtholder's arrival at Brussels, he was introduced at his court, where he became so great a favourite, that a command of a regiment of Dutch chasseurs was promised him.

He wore an hussar uniform, which set off the elegance of his figure to the utmost advantage, and this with the polished style of his address, gave him no small influence in the female circles of Brussels; unfortunately, however, the career of his singular glory was blasted about two months since, by the arrival of a Scotch gentleman of great respectability, who immediately recognized in our hero the celebrated Major Semple.

Mr. Rose, jun. *charge des affairs* at the Hague, then also at Brussels, being informed of the discovery, immediately waited on the Prince of Orange, and made him acquainted with the character, who had thus risen so rapidly into military estimation. In consequence thereof the Major was informed, that he must instantly give in his commission or his degradation would be made in public orders at the head of the line.—By the humane interference of the gentleman, who discovered him, he was rescued, however, from this disgrace, and we believe, suffered to retain his rank, on condition of his retiring from service. Since his detection, it appears, that scarce a person of rank in Brussels, but had been induced to supply him with sums of money under various pretexts. Mrs. Semple, it seems, is a resident at Calais; but to console for her absence, the Major lived *en famille* with a French woman of exquisite beauty whom he did not introduce, however, beyond the pleasurable character of his *chere amie!*

Observations on Wadding.

From an ingenious Work, entitled an Essay on Shooting.

"MANY sportsmen are of opinion, that the wadding, of whatever material it may be composed, or whether it be rammed loose, or tight, into the barrel, has no effect, either on the range of the shot, or the closeness with which they are thrown. Now, although it may be granted, that the material which covers the shot, and which is used only for the purpose of keeping it down, is of little importance, yet the substance which covers the powder is undoubtedly of much consequence. It should be quite close in the barrel, and that without being rammed too hard; the wadding should therefore be of a soft and tractable material, but, at the same time, of sufficient consistence to carry the shot in a body, to a certain distance from the muzzle of the piece; for if the wadding is rammed too close, or is of a hard and rigid substance, such as stiff brown paper, the piece will recoil, and the shot will spread more wide: if, on the contrary, the

the wadding is not sufficiently close, and is composed of a slight and too pliant a material, such as wool or cotton, it will not be of consistence enough to carry the shot, and the discharge will lose its proper force. Besides, a certain portion of the shot which is more immediately in contact with the wadding, will be melted by the explosion of the powder."

After giving a preference to wadding made of hat, and admitting that it is not to be procured in sufficient quantity, the author recommends what he says is cheap and adequate to the purpose, in the following words: "Next to hat, therefore, experience teaches, that nothing is better for wadding than soft brown paper, it combines suppleness with consistence, and moulds itself to the barrel; and it is further serviceable, that such wadding never falls to the ground in less than twelve or fifteen paces from the muzzle of the piece."

"In countries were orchards abound, a very fine moss, of a greenish grey colour, is found adhering to the apple trees, which is extremely proper for wadding, and which even possesses the extraordinary quality of making the barrel less greasy and foul than paper, which always contains a certain quantity of oil. Tow is also very good for this purpose. A cork wadding has been extolled for the virtue of increasing the range, and closeness of the shot of pieces: we have not made the experiment, but it seems probable, that a wadding of cork, adapted to the caliber of the piece, may produce a greater effect than a wadding of paper in these respects; that by stopping the barrel more hermetically, it prevents the elastic fluid, produced by the explosion of the powder, from escaping in any way between the partition of wadding and the charge, preseves all its force to the mouth of the gun, and thereby renders the effect of the powder greater."

"We have now to speak of another species of wadding, which has novelty, at least, to recommend it; but, in truth, it may be preferred to hat-wadding, for the principles of that equally apply to this, and it possesses one great advantage in the circumstance of not fouling the barrel so much as the other. The wadding to which we allude, is made of the cloth called fear-naught, or shepherd's cloth, which is very generally known, fitted to the bore of the piece by a punch; but it must not be dyed, for the acid which is used to set the colour, will rust the inside of the barrel immediately in contact with it, and especially if the gun is laid by charged. Some sportsmen use it upon both the powder and shot; but by experience, we find that it should only cover the powder; for, when laid upon the shot, they are, in consequence, more scattered in the discharge."

"We also find, that wadding composed of this material, is much cheaper than hat: the cost is from one shilling and sixpence to two shillings a yard, according to the quality and thickness, and a yard will cut into 1536 pieces of wadding, for a barrel of a common caliber."

As wadding, either of hat or the cloth we have just mentioned, is apt (if the ram-rod is not sufficiently broad at the top) to be driven down edge-ways, we recommend the sportsman to put it down with the screw-end, giving the screw a single turn round into the cloth; and, when

it

it reaches the powder, to turn the other end of the ram-rod and fix it level, using no force in ramming it home, and keeping the gun as nearly perpendicular as possible during the operation.

To the EDITORS *of the* SPORTING MAGAZINE.

GENTLEMEN,

UNDER the influence of your permission, I must beg to communicate a few rays of consolation to your correspondent, who signs himself "A LOVER OF THE TURF," and "*an enemy to black-legs*;" first reminding him, that an attentive perusal of many *oblique hints*, in your last number, would have totally prevented him from forming so intimate and *interesting* a connection with *one of the family*. In his present predicament, I refer him to the observations upon "the Turf," annexed to the second volume of "The Gentleman's Stable Directory," where the *mysteries* are more clearly explained: as they may not, however, in the aggregate, prove critically exact or directly applicable to the queries he starts, or the answers he wishes to receive, I avail myself of your accustomed liberality, to hold forth such concise remarks, as may afford him a more perfect idea of his adversary's strength, and his own uncertainty. He says, he has matched "a horse got by Alfred, against a mare got by Phlegon, both five years old, weight, eight stone ten pounds, one four-mile heat, 50gs. p. p." Now in this description, no mention is made of the less immediate pedigree, not a word of the get of *the dams*, upon which the success of *the race* (if run honestly) principally depends; for however excellent in appearance, or externally calculated one may be to rate with the other *a mile or two*, he may be assured the most pure and less contaminated blood, will be easily perceived in running the last mile of the four. The circumstance of having his groom "tampered with," is a matter by no means *new*, but of *course*, and may be considered a striking proof of his adversary's *experience* and *penetration*. And, as it is an invariable rule for the SPORTING WORLD, to practise a certain degree of *ease*, *personal freedom*, and *amiable affability*, he must not be at all surprized, if his horse should have *a pail of water (secundem artem)* pantomimically conveyed to him in the middle of the night, *before running*, and yet *(hey presto)* the *lock* of the *stable door*, and every et cetera, remaining exactly in the state it was left the evening preceding; and what is still equally true, and much more surprising, this *legerdemain art* has been brought into successful practice, when a very *trusty*, *faithful*, *honest* servant, has absolutely slept in the stable to prevent it. The reduction of his weight from *nine stone three*, to *eight stone ten*, will be gradually effected in three weeks, without the least injury to his health, provided the *stamina* is constitutionally good. To complete this, he will require no other assistance than a large tea-spoon full of lenitive electuary every night going to rest, walk two miles every morning before breakfast, three *before* and four *after* dinner: sleeping with as much covering upon his bed as will produce a constant moisture upon the skin, amounting to gentle perspiration. For my own part, I must

must candidly confess, that having run a variety of horses in matches, sweepstakes, and for plates, I could never win but by my OWN TRAINING and RIDING, except in a single instance, when I entrusted the rein to my servant, and am experimentally confirmed in my opinion, that no man is so likely to win as he who, TONY LUMPKIN like, "manages his affairs by the rule of *thumb*."

Yours, &c.

AN OLD SPORTSMAN.

ANECDOTES *of* SKILFUL ARCHERS.

(Concluded from page 68.)

OF the birds killed by archers, as mentioned in the former part of these anecdotes, it is reasonable to suppose, that they were shot flying, though that is not expressly mentioned. If they were large birds, and sitting still, the difficulty of hitting them at a short distance, would not be so great as may be supposed. Savages in America, and India, are said often to kill birds; and it is common to see on cabinets from the East, figures of men shooting arrows at them. Some very ancient and rude pieces of sculpture, which are copied by Strasenburg in his History of Siberia, represent archers riding on horseback, who are aiming at birds flying in many directions, low to the ground, and perpendicularly over their heads. The plates in the voyages of Ramusio, contain several figures shooting at birds, which are perched on trees.

Among the feats which have been recorded of Hercules, that of his killing the stymphalic birds (or swans) with his bow, must not be omitted. This is often figured on gems, and other antique pieces of sculpture, *See Tassie's Gems*, No. 5750.

The Caribees seem to have possessed an art in shooting their arrows, peculiar to themselves, as appears from a circumstance which occurred to Columbus, in his second voyage.—" A canoe," says Robertson, " belonging to these people, having accidentally fallen in with the fleet under his command, a vessel with a few men was sent towards it, while the other ships surrounded it, in order to cut off a communication with the shore. When the persons in the canoe saw it was impossible for them to escape, they fought with great resolution, and wounded many of the Spaniards, although they had targets and other kind of armour; and even when the canoe was overset, it was with difficulty the people were taken, as they continued to defend themselves, and to use their bows with great dexterity, while swimming in the sea." *Robertson's Hist.*

The Persians appear to be astonishingly expert in the art of shooting the bow: and, if we believe the accounts of those who have travelled in the East, deserve to be placed in the first rank of archers. Chardin says, that the Persians in their exercises, shoot the bow with incredible accuracy, so accurate that they will drive an arrow into the same hole, many times successively. In Persia also, they excel in shooting the bow while on horseback, a species of archery we, in this country, are entirely ignorant of. Chardin describes the method of practising this art as extremely curious, and speaks of this game as common in all the villages of Persia:

Perſia: the nobility and the kings are fond of it, and often practiſe it. He informs us, that Sephy, the grandfather of the king who occupied the throne at the time he made his tour, excelled in this ſport; and would uſually ſtrike the target, if not with the firſt arrow, with the ſecond he never erred.

Mr. Tavernier had an opportunity of being preſent at a review of the Perſian cavalry, during his reſidence in the Eaſt, in 1654. His account of the exhibition, which is curious, is as follows: "The king," ſays he "accompanied by his principal officers, ſtood on a portal to one of the royal gardens, from whence they viewed the moſt expert and beſt looking of the troops, who were ordered to ride ſingly before the place where the king was ſtationed. The horſemen rode full ſpeed; and, as they paſſed, each man ſhot an arrow into a turf butt, prepared for the occaſion, in ſight of the king, and the officers. When the review cloſed, the perſon whoſe arrow ſtood neareſt the center, was promiſed an increaſe of pay.

Tavernier thus continues his narrative—"I was at Caſbin, at the time, and remember one horſeman, who, riding in his turn, when he came before the portal, ſtopped his horſe, and walked over the plain, contrary to the orders of the General. When he came oppoſite the butt, he refuſed to ſhoot his arrow, and only raiſed his arms in the attitude of drawing the bow. This horſeman was unfortunately of a very forbidden mien, and the king, enraged to ſee his diſcipline ſo groſsly diſregarded, and by one whom he ſuppoſed incapable of any excellence, gave immediate orders for him to be diſmiſſed the ſervice. His weapons and horſe were taken from him on the ſpot; and the king's orders would have been fully executed, had not one of the generals pleaded in his behalf. It was repreſented to the king, that the cavalier, though his appearance was againſt him, was one of the beſt ſoldiers in the whole army; that he had fully proved his ſkill and courage in the ſiege of Erivan and Candahar, and that his father was among thoſe who maintained the attack of Bagdad three times. Having heard this character, the king, at the requeſt of the officers, commanded the horſe and arms to be reſtored to the cavalier, and he was ordered to take his turn in the review. He accordingly rode into the preſence of the king, and turning his horſe firſt to the right, and then to the left, in ſome agitation, cried out—*Where would the king have me ſhoot?* When one of the generals anſwered, *At the target where the other horſemen have ſhot.* The cavalier, ſhaking his head, replied with a ſmile, *Muſt I direct my arrows againſt a turf? I would rather point them at the enemies of my country: then would I with more pleaſure ſhoot three quivers full, than a ſingle arrow at this turf.* He then with great dignity, drew two arrows from his quiver, and holding one of them between his teeth, fitted the other into his bow; when forcing his horſe vigorouſly acroſs the plain, till he had paſſed the butt, he, in the Parthian attitude, drove an arrow into the center of the target. Turning about, he, in the ſame manner, ſhot his ſecond arrow preciſely into the hole from whence his firſt had been drawn. The general, who had before pleaded for the cavalier, now approached the king, expreſſing a hope

hope, that the adroitness of that soldier had satisfied the expectation he had raised: at the same time presenting the cavalier to the king. His Majesty not only declared his approbation of his extraordinary skill, but ordered five times the proposed reward to be given him.

The Turks are said to have been formerly very dexterous in the management of the bow, though, at present, that instrument is little used among them. An old writer, who resided in Constantinople, at a time when archery was cultivated, speaks highly of the performances of these people. These archers did not shoot their bows standing in the usual position, but every one sat cross-legged in the manner common with the Turks.

The GAME *at* CASSINO;

A CONVERSATION.

Illustrated with an elegant Engraving.

—" The dean is dead, what's trumps ?"
SWIFT.

A. I WONDER who was the inventor of the game of cassino?

B. Some republican, you may be assured.

A. Why so?

B. Because he has made the kings and queens of no importance in the game: except the knave, they are the only cards that are excluded the benefit of combination.

C. Your observation is extremely just. Upon reflection, cassino seems intended as an insult upon majesty. Taken in a political point of view, (according to the apparent intention of the contriver of it), I should find no difficulty in declaring it a libellous attack upon royalty.

D. This is another of Tom Paine's projects.

A. I am of your opinion, Madam.

B. But, sir, you are so deeply engaged in *talking* of the game, that you perhaps forget that we are *playing* it—remember it is your deal!

A. I thank you, Madam, for thus reminding me of my duty.—There is an excellent board for the elder hand.—I wonder whether the Duke of York is on his return to England.

C. There—I have made sure of little cassino.—The Duchess, I dare say, would be happy to see him at Oatlands.

D. A pair of aces—I have secured two points, however.—The ladies' subscription for furnishing the British troops on the continent with flannel, was a benevolent undertaking. Those who fight our battles, ought to be furnished with something to cover their ——

B. True—I can neither pair nor form a combination to suit my hand; I must lay down a card—there—

D. And I shall take it up. Exclusive of my making a pair with it, it happens to be a spade, and may assist me in making a point in that suit.

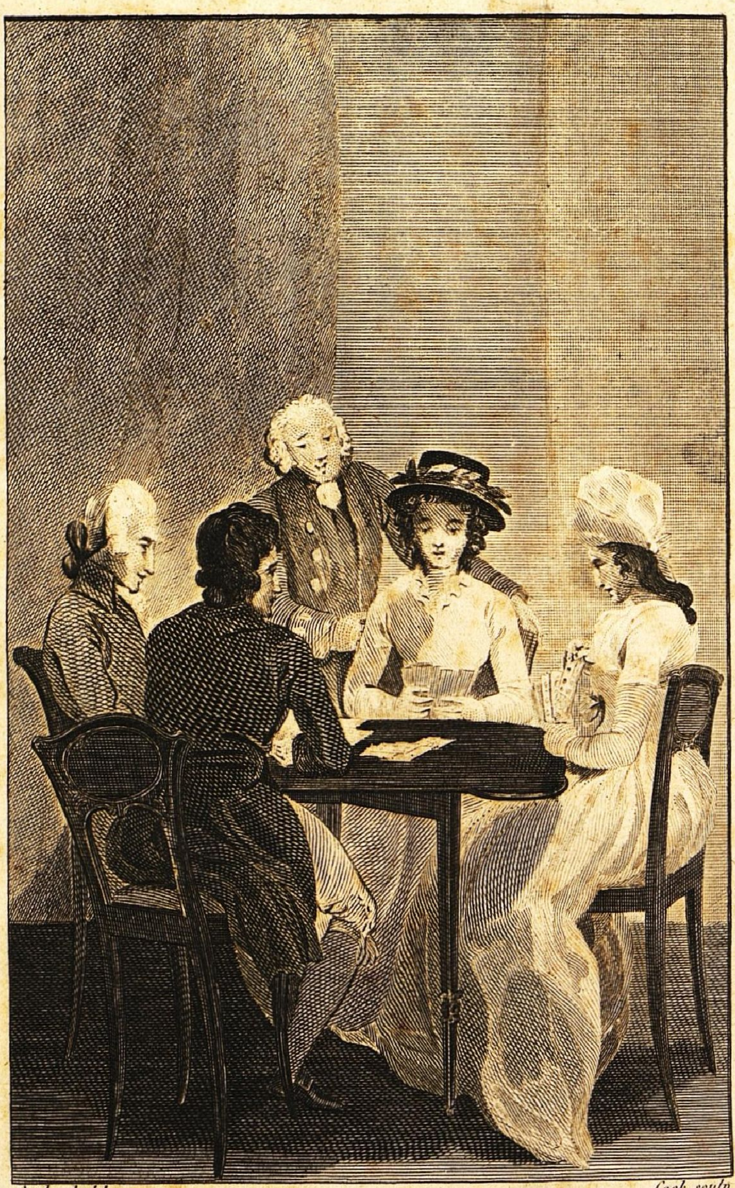
A. But you have given me an opportunity of clearing the board which entitles me to one point.

B. My hand is good for nothing.

A. And yet, if you would give it me, Madam, you would make me the happiest of mortals.—Cruel case! I am obliged to lay down great cassino.

B. Have you heard of the accident that has happened to Mrs. Smirk?

C. What



Stothard del. *Cook sculp*

CASSINO.

C. What, has her coach overturned?

B. No, not so bad as that—but Mr. Smirk, in his own proper person, saw a monster made of himself.—I have most spades.

A. I have three aces, and if I am not greatly mistaken, I have the greatest number of cards: six points are consequently my due.

D. The discovery of Mrs. Smirk in a certain situation, was a planned scheme. A separation is determined on, that each may be at liberty to marry again. This is a common case: the parties must go through these ceremonies, to bring themselves into Doctors' Commons, and decently rid themselves of each othet,—I have but one ace.

C. I have great cassino.

MR. EDITORS,

THE above conversation, to the best of my recollection, happened among a polite party, where I had lately the honour to be both an auditor and a spectator. Business of importance obliged me to take my leave before the game was finished, or you would have had further particulars from,

Yours, &c.

CAROLUS.

Jan. 20, 1794.

To the EDITORS *of the* SPORTING MAGAZINE.

GENTLEMEN,

I AM a bit of a turf man, and sometimes scramble in for a country plate; but I could wish that the laws respecting this diversion, were more thoroughly understood, that our country-equestrian ones were regulated by the Newmarket code.

For instance, in these times of expence, the *pounds* should be *guineas*; and in the disqualifying part of the articles, it should run thus—"Horses having won more at one time than *fifty guineas*, Newmarket pounds;" by which many inconveniences might be avoided, which are now frequent by *fifty pounds sterling*, as most racing articles specify.

I remember, some years since, at Hereford, there was an exclusion of all horses that had won more at one time than *fifty pounds*, (the equity of which, was to prevent horses that might have won a king's plate), but it was construed by the stewards there in exclusion of *Rover*, (I believe Clark's) who had won the prince's plate, at Ascot, which being fifty guineas, (only 2l. 10s. more) deprived him of the Hereford plate, as the owner of the second horse demanded it under the *literal* article. I once wrote to a noble earl, during the sessions of the jockey club, at Newmarket, on a dispute arisen at a country race. My noble friend informed me, they decided no dispute but what originated on their own turf.

But, with great deference to so august a tribunal, I could hope that they would condescend in a future paper-calendar, to *recommend* to the stewards of other races, to regulate in some measures their articles, by the general principles of those observed at Newmarket, which would produce a perspicuity at inferior olympics, now so much wanted.

CAPT. SNUG.

Fairy Camp,
Jan. 1794.

THE

THE
FEAST OF WIT:
OR,
SPORTSMAN's HALL.

For the SPORTING MAGAZINE.

AMONGST other curious and amusing circumstances at the meeting at Hounslow, between Mendoza and Ward, the following hand-bill was stuck upon the window of a house there:

This is to gif notes.

"MEN and women may cum into this house att 3d a pease, to sea the site betweene the Jew an thee Inglish man whiche accordinge to accompts is too be a bludy one—their be 3 windows in the wun pare stares, so thate you well have a fine site of the comboutans—and I have a *ball coney* for thee ladies hat a shillin a pease—good accommodashions in the eatinge waye, too bee pade for extrye."

N. B. Horses prowided fore in thee yard, an shays taking care off. Ralph Roberts.

When Louis XV. went a hunting, it was customary for his suite to take with them forty bottles of wine, of which he seldom tasted; indeed, they were intended more for his servants than for him. One day the king was extremely thirsty, and asked for a glass of wine. "Sire, there is none left," said they. Do you not always bring forty bottles? "Yes, Sire, but all is drank." In future, said he, you will be so good as to bring forty-one, that, at least, one may be left for me.

A hand-bill, to the following effect, was circulated in the City during the holydays:

TO SPORTSMEN.

"To be let during the holidays, to one, two, or more sportsmen, about four acres of marsh, well enclosed, near Barking, in Essex. They abound in snipes, bulfinches, sparrows, and yellow-hammers. There is a pond adjoining, well stocked with ducks, at which the gentlemen sportsmen, with powder, may shoot at three-pence a shot, but if they put shot in the piece, they must pay an additional penny."

A clergyman, in the West-Riding of Yorkshire, going to serve his cure, happened on his

way to pop his head (by way of an *how-do-you-do?*) into the house of a parishioner, where the irresistable smiles of a full jorum unluckily struck his eye; when being asked to drink, as he was seldom in the habit of using negatives on such occasions, he took a good *orthodox* pull; and lo! a second, and a third. The service gone through, while the composing staves of the old hundredth were humming over, the strength of the spigot proving too powerful for the strength of the spirit, poor Spintext fell fast asleep; nor was it till the clerk gave him a friendly shake that he awoke, when he audibly exclaimed, as a sort of a text, "*Push about the tankard.*"

EXCOMMUNICATION.

Sir Thomas Moor, who was a strict papist, records, that a poor man observing a priest too free by half to his wife, told it abroad, but having no witness to prove it, was by the said priest sued for defamation, and, under pain of excommunication, enjoined to stand up in the church, the next Sunday, and say, *Mouth thou liest*; so having first stated what he had reported of the priest, he laid his hand on his mouth, and repeated the words, but immediately removing his hand to his eyes, added, "*but eyes, by the mass,* YE *lie not a whit!*"

AN ODD FISH.

A fellow, one or two days last week, picked up a tolerable quantity of loose *copper*, in Chester, by the whimsical trick of cramming the credulous, with the belief of his having a large fish in his belly. He was *impregnated*, he says, about two years ago, at a river, where he supposes he must have swallowed the spawn of some of the piscatory tribe. At times it appeared rather a turbulent tenant, and threw the house of its landlord into a shocking face-making disorder, but a glass of *gin* (a liquor of which it is prodigiously fond) always proves a certain *pacifier*.

The celebrated Sieur Boaz, when lately at an inn in Loughborough, was accosted in the usual style by a retailer of oranges; "Well, my lad," says the Sieur, "How do you sell?" "Two-pence a piece, Sir," quoth the man. "High priced, indeed," rejoined the deceiver, "however, we will try them". Cutting an orange into four pieces, "Behold," says the Sieur (producing a new guinea from the inside of the orange), "how your fruit repays me for your extortion; come, I can afford to purchase one more," and he repeated the same experiment as with the first. "Well, to be sure," says he, "they are the first fruit I ever found to produce golden seeds," The Sieur then wished to come to terms for his whole basket; but the astonished Clodpole, with joyous alacrity, ran out of the house, and reaching home, began to quarter the contents of the whole basket—but alas! the seeds were no more than the produce of nature—the conjuror only possessing the *golden art*.

A coxcomb, the other day, asked a stuttering barber's boy, "Did you ever shave a monkey?" "No, Sir," said the boy, "but if you will s-s-s-sit down, I'll t-t-t-ry."

Strange bequests are often made in wills, but there is one lately entered on the legal records of Madras, which surpasses every thing of this kind. A *wealthy factor*

factor, lately deceased, harbouring a resentment, in his last moments, against a *great* man in that settlement, for a long passed insult, which he had not nerve enough to punish personally, has solemnly bequeathed a legacy of 4000 guineas, to the first person who shall have the heroism to kick the said great man on the parade of Fort St. George.

CARD:

TO THE COBLER OF BRISTOL.

My own compliments to you, Mr. Crispin, requesting you, my dear fellow, as a brother *lad of wax*, to make me some of your *tight shoes*, fit for immediate use. I set off post, the first ship that sails for India, in order to *kick* the honest gentleman, at Madras, for the 4000, left in the odd fellow's will, that he may sleep quiet in his coffin. As I know not what kind of business it may turn out, you may make me two pair, one double-chanelled, dy'e see, for fear it should prove hard service, and the other only *dog skin*, which you know will do full as well, and be genteeler wear, if I have only to kick a *puppy!* As I always pay *ready money* down, your bill will be discharged, as soon as the shoes are tried.

Yours, &c.

Cadet M'KICK-EM.

Sir Francis Bacon, who was always for moderate counsels, when any one was speaking of such a reformation of the church of England, as would, in effect, make it no church, said thus to him—" Sir, the subject we talk of is the eye of England; and, if there be a speck or two in the eye, we endeavour to take them off: but he were a strange occulist, who would pull out the eye."

An itenerant dentist, has lately put into one of the provincial papers an advertisement, addressed *to the lovers of good eating*, in which he states, that Christmas being a time, when men in general have more use for their teeth than at any other period, he earnestly recommends his friends and customers to be early in their application, and engages to furnish them with masticators, of such a quality and form, as shall enable them to work double tides during the festival, and last the whole year round; or to repair their damaged grinders, in so masterly a way, as shall renovate all their dormant faculties. He concludes with a P. S. hoping that those who wish to share in the luxuries of the season, will not lose the present favourable opportunity, but have their instrument put in proper order, without loss of time, as delay will lead to *hindrance of business*.

A nephew of one of the most distinguished officers of the French Navy, being mortally wounded, was removed from the field of battle, on the same bier with a common soldier of the legion of Mirabeau, who uttered the most piercing cries. The young nobleman addressed himself to this soldier, in a tone full of sensibility and mildness, said to him, "*Your God died on a cross, your king on a scaffold, and you dare to complain of your fate!*" and expired a few moments after.

FLANNEL DRAWERS.

A couple of ancient *maiden ladies*, in Lincolnshire, had begun this comfortable covering to the British soldier, without precisely knowing how they were to be made, and they were ashamed to ask.

ask. But as their antipathy to the French system of "*sans culottes*" was not to be damped, they have sent up to London three such pair of drawers, as do not give the most favourable impression of the power of the British soldier.

"Who shall decide when doctors disagree?" In a late examination of a gentleman who had been declared a lunatic, before the Lord Chancellor, one band of physicians asserted, that he was absolutely insane, and another, that he was as competent in every thing that related to the management of his worldly concerns, as any man in the court. When very many years ago, a Lord Harborough, who was suspected of being in a similar state, was passing through the hall of his house in the country, several of his servants were hammering at a large box to force it open. "Serve it as you do oysters," said the Peer, "serve it as you do oysters, put it in the fire and it will open of itself." This, by his own counsel (at the same time his family endeavouring to prove his insanity), was brought forward as a *bon mot* worthy of Lord Chesterfield, and proving him not only a man capable of reasoning, but of brilliant wit—and by the other side as a proof that he did not know the difference between an oyster and a packing-case.

SIMPLICITY.

A country fellow, who lately went over to Flanders as a recruit, being called to account for not giving an answer to an officer who challenged him by the name of sentinel, said, in his defence, that his name was not Sentinel, but Ralph.

FRENCH TERMS.

A fellow asked an acquaintance in custody of the constables, whither he was going? He replied, before the *committee of public safety*. And a woman being questioned by a magistrate what was her calling, answered—"She was in a *state of requisition*.

A PARABLE, ADDRESSED TO REPORT-CATCHERS.

Upon the credit of a clerical sportsman, the following recipe was lately given for catching wild geese: Tie a cord to the tail of an eel, and throw it into the fens where the fowls haunt. One of the geese swallowing this slippery bait, it runs through him, and is swallowed by a second and a third, and so on till the string is quite filled. A person once caught so many geese in this manner, that they absolutely *flew away with him*.

There is a gentleman about town, who so exactly resembles the Duke of Hamilton in person and features, that it would puzzle the discriminating features even of Mrs. Esten, to know the original from the counterfeit. This man is singularly fond of making the *fac simile* as complete as possible, of which he afforded one day an extraordinary instance, in Hyde Park. Being dressed as usual, precisely in the same manner as the Duke, he met him limping with a white handkerchief tied round his leg. The imitator turned short, tied on a handkerchief, and as he limped along, was accosted by Bill Ward, who imagining he was speaking to his friend, cried out familiarly,—"No sparring to-morrow, Duke; I'm down upon the *queer timber*."

The

The gentleman, whose likeness in person and dress to the Duke of Hamilton, is so great, that he has been frequently mistaken for him, is Mr. Montgomery, the brother of the Marchioness Townsend.

A GOOD LIFE.

This phrase was formerly confined to the *assurance offices*, but is now extended to the booksellers shops, and it is the duty of every man, who is at all known to *live on*, if it were only to preserve his character. *To be in at the death*, is as much the business of a bookmaker, as a hunter; and the last gasp of an eminent character, is considered as a sort of signal for attack to a band of literary *carrion crows*, who are waiting to pick his bones. By these gentry a man is treated somewhat like a criminal at the Old Bailey, with this difference, that the culprit receives sentence *before* he is dead, and the other after, when his body being delivered to Arthur Anecdote, Esq. he being first anatomised, is afterwards *parboiled*, *pickled*, *peppered*, and *salted*, until it resembles the original about as much as a *mummy* does a man.

ANECDOTE OF PETER THE GREAT.

This prince fixed his audiences with ambassadors at four in the morning, but it so happened that M. de Bestucheff, who was appointed to go to England, and who was to attend at this hour, delayed coming until five, when the Emperor had finished his audiences and was gone to the dock-yard; thither Bestucheff followed, and having found the Emperor at the top of the mast, he was under the necessity of getting himself hoisted in a basket, between the water and the heavens, and in that situation he received his credentials.

ANECDOTE OF VAN TROMP.

During the heat of a naval engagement, between the English and Dutch fleets, Tromp being excessively thirsty, called for a bowl of wine, which his servant had no sooner delivered to him, but a cannon ball took his hand off, just as he was retiring from his master. The brave admiral, touched with a noble compassion, spilt the wine on the deck, saying, "It is not fit I should quench my thirst with the blood of a faithful servant." And as soon as he had spoke these words, a bullet took from him the power of ever drinking again.

Frederic the Great of Prussia took as little notice of libellers of the lower kind, as of vulgar writings and dealers in epigrams. Every one in Potsdam knows, that a few years before his death, seeing a great crowd assemble under his windows, and eagerly look up to the palace, he asked one of his servants what was the matter. Informed by him that a libel on his majesty was stuck up at the palace, but so high, that it could hardly be read from below, he ordered it to be taken down, and placed again in such a manner, that people might be able to read it, without distorting their necks.

ANECDOTE.

A flatterer one day, complimented Alphonso V. in the following words: "Sire, you are not only a king, like others, but you are also the brother, the nephew, and the son of a king."—"Well," replied the wise monarch, "What do all these vain titles prove? That I hold the crown

crown from my anceſtors, without ever having done any thing to deſerve it."

M. de Malezieux, ſpeaking one day to the Duke of Orleans, regent of France, reſpecting a treaty of peace that had been juſt concluded, obſerved, that it would have been prudent to inſert ſome obſcure clauſe in it, the interpretation of which might, at a convenient opportunity, furniſh *a pretence for renewing the war.* "That," replied the prince, "is not neceſſary; when people *have money enough* to go to war, *they need not care a farthing for a pretence.*"

John Baſilowitz, or Ivan IV. Great Duke of Muſcovy, was ſo cruel and ferocious a prince, that he ordered the hat of an Italian ambaſſador to be nailed to his head, becauſe he had preſumed to be covered before him. The ambaſſador of the Queen of England, however, was bold enough to put on his hat in his preſence; upon which Baſilowitz aſked him "If he knew how he had treated an ambaſſador for the like behaviour," "No," replied the intrepid Engliſhman, "but I am ſent hither by Queen Elizabeth; and, if an inſult is offered to her miniſter, ſhe has ſpirit enough to reſent it." "What a brave man," exclaimed the Czar; "which of you" added he to his courtiers, "would have acted and ſpoken in this manner, to ſupport my honour and intereſts?"

Extraordinary EQUESTRIAN, PEDESTRIAN, *and other* PERFORMANCES.

(*Continued from page* 102.)

1763.

JULY 11th, a ſerjeant in the Glouceſter militia, for a wager of 30l. undertook to walk from London to Briſtol, in twenty hours; accordingly he ſet out from London at twelve o'clock at night and arrived at the Tolſey at Briſtol, thirty-five minutes after ſeven; having performed it with eaſe in nineteen hours and thirty-five minutes.

1764.

June 16th, about three o'clock in the morning, Mr. Willis, glaſs-grinder and his wife, who both together weighed thirty-two ſtone, horſeman's weight, went in a ſingle horſe chaiſe from their houſe in Moorfields, to Windſor Caſtle gate, and back again, for a conſiderable wager. The horſe was neither to ſtop, or the parties get out of the chaiſe. They were allowed ten hours to perform it in, but did it with eaſe in leſs than nine. Several large bets were depending on this whimſical performance.

1765.

Auguſt 17th, Mr. Mullins, a watch-caſe maker, in Shoreditch, near fifty years old, walked without ſhoes or ſtockings, from Shoreditch church to St. George's Church, in the Borough, and back again, for a wager of ſix guineas, in the ſpace of forty-ſix minutes and a half, having had fifty allowed him.

1766.

July 7th, at noon, a clerk to a merchant in Aldgate, walked from Whitechapel church to Hyde Park Corner, which is exactly four miles, in forty-four minutes, for a bet of fifty guineas: he was allowed fifty minutes.

1770.

May 9th, James Parrot, a coſter-

coster-monger, ran the length of Old-street, viz. from the Charter-house wall, in Goswell-street, to Shoreditch-church gates (which is a measured mile) in four minutes. Fifteen guineas to five were betted he did not run the ground in four minutes and a half.

1773.

February 16th, Mr. Tyler, a butcher, in White Cross-street, who rides twelve stone, rode his galloway, only 12 hands 3 inches high, for a wager of a hundred guineas, forty miles in four hours, on the Romford-road.

1780.

During the races at Ascot-Heath, the Hon. Charles Wyndham's grey hackney, was rode by one boy only, 45 miles in three hours, for a very considerable sum.

September 9th, one M'Henny, a clogger at Penrith, who was sixty years of age, walked over the race-ground at Newcastle, fifty miles in thirteen hours, for a wager of ten guineas.

1784.

March, Mr. King's Hue and Cry, for 100 guineas, trotted round Huntingdon Course in 7 seconds less than 6 minutes. He several times trotted sixteen miles in an hour, carrying sixteen stone. And was advertised for five years successively, to trot against any horse in the three kingdoms.

1785.

On Saturday, June 5, William Woolfit, of Fenton, Lincolnshire, who undertook, for the trifling wager of a guinea, to walk forty miles for six days together, finished his week's work with seemingly great ease and cheerfulness. When it is known that he was fifty-five years of age; that he was not allowed to walk off the common highway, which is a heavy sand; and that he was under the necessity of travelling the whole forty miles each day, between the hours of six in the morning and six in the evening, it must be reckoned an extraordinary feat. Had the wager been a shilling less, it would just have amounted to a penny per miles.

1786.

August 21st, a foot-race against time, was run over the course at Egham, by J. York, ostler at the Crown and Mermaid, at Windsor. He was to run four miles in twenty-six minutes, which he performed in twenty-four minutes and a half. A few years before, he run the same distance over Reading course, in twenty-three minutes and ten seconds.

1788.

June 26th, was run at New-market, by a young man of the name of Evans, ten miles for three hundred guineas. The time allowed him to do it in, was one hour, which he performed in fifty-five minutes, and eighteen seconds, to the astonishment of every one who saw him, being so short of stature. The bets did not amount to less than 10,000l.

1789.

Friday, July 24th, the long depending wager of 100 guineas, between Wills, the famous Shropshire sawyer, and several gentlemen of the turf, was finally determined. It was, that Wills should go over the space of ground of 100 miles in twenty-one hours and thirty-five minutes, which

which diftance he performed with great eafe, in an hour lefs than the fpecified time. He began his journey at four o'clock in the morning, on Thurfday, on Blackheath, and a fpace of ground of half a mile in length, was meafured for him, to walk over backwards and forwards, not in the leaft fatigued when he had finifhed his journey.

1790.

January 20th, Richard Weft, of Old Windfor, aged 52, ftarted from the fign of the Prince of Wales, at Windfor, walked to Hyde Park Corner, and back again, in fix hours and forty minutes, for a confiderable wager.

1791.

March 16th, a race was run between Mr. Weft, of Windfor, and Mr. Fozard's oftler*, for ten guineas a-fide, fix miles on the Hounflow road, which was won by the latter, in thirty-four minutes and five feconds. Weft was the man who beat Fofter Powell.

May 8th, Mr. Eyre, of York, who undertook to walk twenty miles a day for three weeks, for a confiderable fum, finifhed his tafk with much apparent eafe.

October 28th, Afpinall, the famous Pontefract Pedeftrian, who had undertaken to walk fifty miles in twelve hours, performed the fame on Aberford Common in nine hours and fifty-nine minutes. Afpinall in the fame year, walked from York to London, and back again in fix days.

(To be continued.)

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* See an account of a recent *admirable* performance of this man, in our Magazine for November laft, page 99.

To the Editors *of the* Sporting Magazine.

Gentlemen,

As archery is a fubject which occafionally furnifhes entertainment for your readers, permit me to recommend the laws of the Toxopholite Society, as a fuitable article for your interefting and agreeable Magazine; and at the fame time to obferve that thefe laws will be found very ufeful to fuch focieties, as have not a digefted code for their government, and likewife to gentlemen inclined to form new focieties of archers.

I am, &c.

A Member.

The Laws *of the* Toxopholite Society.

I.

THAT the Toxopholite Society fhall not exceed the number of one hundred and fixty fubfcribing members.

II.

That the members of the fociety fhall meet every Tuefday and Friday, from the 15th of April to the 15th of October, yearly, at five o'clock in the afternoon, upon the Toxopholite Ground, Bedford-fquare, for the purpofe of fhooting, or tranfacting the bufinefs of the fociety, and afterwards of fupping together; which meeting fhall be called, The Summer Meeting; and on the third Tuefday in the month of February, yearly, at three o'clock, for the purpofe of tranfacting the bufinefs of the fociety, and afterwards of dining together, (at fuch houfe as the majority of the members prefent at the laft fummer meeting fhall agree upon), which meeting fhall be called, The Annual Winter

Winter Meeting: and alſo on ſuch target days as are herein after appointed. That there ſhall not be any buſineſs tranſacted upon a target day, except the particular buſineſs relating to the target, nor at any ſummer meeting before eight o'clock, or after ſupper; nor at the winter meeting after dinner; nor unleſs there ſhall be preſent at ſuch ſummer or winter meeting, nine members or more.

III.

That at the winter meeting annually (of which one week's notice ſhall be given by the ſecretary, to every member), the officers of the ſociety, namely, a preſident, four vice-preſidents, a ſecretary and treaſurer, ſhall be choſen by ballot. And in caſe any vacancy ſhall happen in any of the ſaid offices, by death or reſignation, the ſociety ſhall forthwith be ſummoned to fill up the ſame.

IV.

That every member ſhall annually ſubſcribe, and pay to the treaſurer, at the firſt ſummer meeting, the ſum of three guineas, to ſupport the fund for defraying the general expences of the ſociety; and that, until a member ſhall have paid his annual ſubſcription, he ſhall not be entitled to ſhoot upon the Toxopholite Ground, to propoſe or ballot for any candidate, to vote on any queſtion, or to exerciſe any right as a member.

V.

That the uniform of the ſociety ſhall be a green cloth coat, and white waiſtcoat and breeches of cloth, or caſſimere, with gilt arrow buttons, white ſtockings, and black huſſar half boots; a black round hat, with the Prince of Wales's button, a double gold loop, and one black cock feather. That the ſhooting accoutrements ſhall be, a black leather brace, a buff-coloured leather belt, with a pouch and green taſſel. That the colour of the cloth, the form of making, the ſize and figure of the buttons, and every other article of the uniform and accoutrements, ſhall be the ſame as now uſed by the ſociety, according to a deſcription hung up in the Toxopholite room.

VI.

That the regulations with reſpect to wearing the uniform ſhall be as follow, namely, That every member who ſhall ſhoot upon a target day, ſhall appear in full uniform, and with his ſhooting accoutrements: upon a ſummer meeting, in the uniform coat and hat, and alſo with his ſhooting accoutrements; and that every member who ſhall attend at the winter meeting, or at the dinner upon a target day, ſhall appear in the uniform coat and waiſtcoat.

VII.

That every member who ſhall ſhoot upon a target day, or ſummer meeting, ſhall have his arrows painted or marked with his own proper mark.

VIII.

That if any member ſhall offend, in any reſpect, againſt the ſixth or ſeventh laws, he ſhall forfeit and pay for every inſtance in which he ſhall ſo offend, if upon a target day, the penalty of ten ſhillings and ſixpence; and if at a ſummer or winter meeting, the penalty of two ſhillings and ſixpence: and until payment of the penalty or penalties ſo incurred, he ſhall be ſubject to the diſabilities mentioned in the fourth law, and ſhall alſo be incapable of winning any medal, or other prize upon the target day on which he ſhall ſo offend.

 IX. That

IX.

That the election of members shall be by ballot, subject to the following regulations, namely, That until the limited number of the society shall be complete, any gentleman, desirous of becoming a member, may be proposed by one member, and seconded by another, at any summer meeting, and the name and addition of such candidate shall then be hung up publickly, in the Toxopholite room, for a fortnight previous to his being ballotted for: and when the limited number of the society shall be complete, any gentleman may be proposed at a summer meeting, as a candidate to become a member on the first vacancy; and being seconded, the name and addition of such candidate, shall be entered on a list, with the date of such proposal, and the name of such proposer, and the list hung up in the Toxopholite room. And when any vacancy shall happen by the death or resignation of any member, the same shall be declared by the chairman, and notice thereof hung up in the Toxopholite room for a fortnight previous to the ballot for filling up the same; after which time the candidates shall be ballotted for in the order in which they were proposed, until, by the election of one of the said candidates, such vacancy shall be filled up; and the names of the candidates, who shall not then be ballotted for, shall remain on the list, until they shall respectively be ballotted for upon a subsequent vacancy. That every candidate shall be ballotted for separately, and unless there shall be two black balls in such ballot, the candidate shall be declared duly elected, and shall, witin one month from the time of his election, pay an admission fee of three guineas, and also the subscription for the current year; and if such newly elected member shall neglect to pay his admission fee, and subscription, within that time, the member who proposed him shall pay the same, and until payment thereof, be subject to the disabilities mentioned in the fourth law.

X.

That honorary members may be admitted into the society, being first proposed and seconded, and their names hung up and afterwards ballotted for, in such manner as is directed by the ninth law, with respect to candidates.

(To be concluded in our next.)

To the Editors *of the* Sporting Magazine.

GENTLEMEN,

AS you frequently entertain the town, by inserting anecdotes respecting theatrical persons in your Magazine, I have sent you the following, which is literally true, and I think abounds with humour; and as many of the noblemen and gentlemen of the turf are admirers of the stage, hope it will not be unacceptable to them; therefore request you will give it a place in your next number, which will oblige many of your readers, and your obedient servant,

SPINOSA.

Temple,
Dec. 30, 1793.

THEATRICAL ANECDOTE.

AT a town of some note on the north road, a party of tradesmen, among whom was a hair-dresser, undertook to perform the tragedy

gedy of *Venice Preserved*, and the part of *Jaffier* being allotted to the knight of the comb, he met with such applause from all the persons over whose chins, as *Nipperkin* says, " he used to flourish one of Sharp's best patent concaves," that he really thought himself equal to Garrick; and it was reported, that from the account which had been given of him in town, he actually received a letter from one of the managers, with the offer of an engagement; and that he had accepted it, and was preparing for his *debut* before a London audience. This *barbarous hero of the sock and buskin*, fearing the report might induce some of his customers to leave him, by the advice of a WAG, took the following ludicrous method to undeceive them, and at the next representation of *Venice Preserved*, in the scene where *Jaffier* attempts to kill himself, came forward, to the great entertainment of the audience, with a *razor* in his hand instead of a dagger, and informed them, that notwithstanding the great encouragement he had met with as an *actor*, he fully intended carrying on the SHAVING BUSINESS as usual.

The GAME *of* CASSINO.

(Concluded from page 125.)

FOUR-HANDED CASSINO.

FOUR, three, or two persons may play at the game of Cassino; when you engage in it, it is played with partners, like whist, and is subject to the same laws with regard to cutting for places, dealing, and marking the game, single or double: and playing the rubber, which is gaining two points out of three.

THREE-HANDED CASSINO.

At three-handed cassino, each party marks separately; and in counting the points of the game, the *two lowest* add their numbers together, and deduct them from the *higher*. For example: if A should gain five points, B four, and C two, the two last reckon six points between them: in which case A has only five, and cannot mark any thing; but if A has made more points than both his adversaries can claim together, he marks all above their numbers.

TWO-HANDED CASSINO.

In playing the two-handed game of cassino, each of the parties marks separately, making the same deductions from the highest number; and when the points in the game are reckoned on both sides, the lesser number must also be deducted from the greater, viz. if A should happen to have seven points, and B but four, A must mark three, and B none.

SWAFFHAM COURSING MEETING

BEGINS on Monday the 5th of February, 1794, unless prevented by frost or snow; in which case the meeting will be held the first open Monday in February, and not later.

GEORGE NELTHORPE, Esq.

PRESIDENT.

IGBOROW.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3d.

Mr. Tyssen's Turrit agst Mr. Denton's Nation, 1 gui.

Mr. Nelthorpe produces a puppy against Mr. Seabright's puppy; 1 gui. and 1 bye.

WEST-

WESTACRE.

TUESDAY, the 4th.

SMEE.

WEDNESDAY, the 5th.

Mr. Sebright's Palamon against Mr. Forby's Zoilus, 1 gui.

Mr. Denton's Nation against Mr. Maynard's Iris, 1 gui.

Mr. Hand's Flirt against Mr. Pottinger's Diamond, 1 and 1 bye.

Mr. Hand's Fidget against Mr. Pottinger's Diamond, 1 and 1 bye.

Mr. Tyssen's Telemachus, against Mr. Maynard's Il-Re, 1 and 1 bye.

Mr. Hand's Fortitude, against Mr. Pottinger's Dandy, 1 and 1 bye.

Mr. Maynard's If, against Mr. Micklethwaite's Jupiter, 1 and 1 bye.

NARFORD.

THURSDAY, the 6th.

WESTACRE.

FRIDAY, the 7th.

Mr. Micklethwaite's Jupiter, jun. against Mr. Coppin's Una, 1 and 4 bye.

Mr. Micklethwaite's Juno, against Mr. Hand's Flirt, 1 and 1 bye.

No stranger can be admitted into the Society's room, unless introduced by a member.

DESCRIPTION

Of the PICTURES, *now exhibiting at the* TURF GALLERY, *in* CONDUIT STREET, *painted by* G. STUBBS, R. A. *for* "THE TURF REVIEW," *a Work to be* PUBLISHED *by* SUBSCRIPTION, *and delivered* PERIODICALLY.

Dedicated by Permission to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.

THIS singular publication will be embellished with beautiful engravings, and present a complete and accurate REVIEW OF THE TURF, from the year 1750, to the present time, under the direction of Messrs. G. and G. T. STUBBS.

Mr. Stubbs, in his introduction to this curious undertaking, has the following address:

At a period, when protection is daily solicited for embellished editions of various authors, it may be deemed extraordinary to submit one of a different cast to the public consideration; where the chief merit consists in the actions, and not in the language of the HEROES and HEROINES it proposes to record, and with whom, possibly, LITERATURE may exclaim, "She neither desires connection, or allows utility."

As an history of an animal peculiar to this country, the horse surely may put in its claim to general notice; and although the numerous volumes of CHENEY and HERBER, downwards, may give critical knowledge to the diligent and deep explorer, they certainly do not impart sufficient information to a superficial observer, yet both may regret, that there is not a regular series of PAINTINGS and ENGRAVINGS of those horses, with their histories, which have been, or are now, famous.

It is, therefore, proposed to publish by subscription,

A REVIEW OF THE TURF;

OR,

An accurate account of the performance of every horse of note that has started from the year 1750, to the present time; together with the pedigrees, interspersed with various anecdotes on the most remarkable races; the whole embellished with upwards of ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY-FIVE PRINTS, engraved in the best

best manner, from original portraits of the most famous racers, painted by G. Stubbs, R. A. at an immense expence, and solely for this work.

CONDITIONS.

I.

Upwards of one hundred and forty-five subjects, either the portrait of some favourite horse, or representation of some remarkable match or sweepstakes will be printed.

II.

The whole to be published in numbers, each containing three capital prints, *twenty inches by sixteen*, in addition to three smaller, engraved from the same subject, as embellishments to the letter-press, which will consist of three sheets.

III.

An elegant house is open in a central situation, under the title of the "Turf Gallery," to which subscribers have a free admission.

IV.

Each subscriber to pay TWO GUINEAS per number, ONE GUINEA to be paid at the time of subscribing, and ONE GUINEA on the delivery of the number.

V.

On delivery of the first number, one guinea to be advanced for the number immediately following.

VI.

The whole to be contained in forty numbers, at all events not to exceed forty-five.

VII.

A beautiful engraving of the GODOLPHIN ARABIAN, will be presented to subscribers *gratis*, as a frontispiece to the work.

VIII.

The plates, when printed off, will be scrupulously delivered in the order they are subscribed for; so that the EARLIEST SUBSCRIBERS will consequently have the best impressions.

IX.

ONE HUNDRED PROOFS will be taken, at four guineas each number.

N. B. Books are now open for insertion of subscribers' names, at Messrs. Tattersall's, Hyde Park Corner; at Messrs. Stubb's, Somerset Street, Portman Square; and at the Turf Gallery, in Conduit Street, Hanover Square.

Such are Messrs. Stubb's conditions, and on Wednesday, Jan. 20, 1794, the gallery was first opened for public inspection, and the following is a catalogue of the pictures.

No. I.

THE GODOLPHIN ARABIAN,

Was the property of the Earl of Godolphin. He was the most valuable foreign horse ever brought into this country, and justly called "Father of the Turf," from having contributed more to the improvement of the breed of horses in this country, than any stallion, before, or since his time. He was particularly attached to the cat in this picture, (the expression of which is inimitable), the painter's motive for introducing this creature, was to commemorate a circumstance, perfectly singular; it was not easy to decide which of these two animals had the greatest affection for each other, and the cat really pined to death at the loss of her old companion the Arabian.

N. B. An engraving from this picture, will be presented by Mr. Stubbs *to the noblemen and gentlemen, who have done him the honour to patronise and subscribe to this undertaking, and will be delivered as a frontispiece, with the first number of this Work.*

No. II.

No. II.

MARSKE.

The sire of the celebrated ECLIPSE; on account of whose singular peforman es, he covered mares at fifty guineas; a few seasons at one hundred guineas; and one at two hundred guineas each. He was the property of the Earl of Abingdon.

Marske is in Mr. Stubb's usual style, and the back ground is beautifully picturesque.

No. III.

ECLIPSE,

Was bred by H. R. H. the late Duke of Cumberland, uncle to his Majesty. He was the most capital, and allowed to be the fastest horse, that ever started. In training, and when a stallion, he was the property of the late Colonel O'Kelly.—The portraits introduced, are those of the boy who looked after him, and Samuel Merrit, who generally rode him.

This horse is described in training, and instantaneously conveys to the tasteful observer, the ability of the master. To think upon the great, and repeated efforts of ECLIPSE, is to call to the recollection, that charming picture described by the immortal Homer:

" At once the courser from the barrier bound;
The lifted scourges all at once resound;
Their heart, their eyes, their voice they send before,
And up the Champaine thunder from the shore;
Thick, where they drive, the dusty clouds arise,
And the lost courser in the whirlwind flies.
Loose on their shoulders the long manes reclin'd,
Float in their speed, and dance upon the wind;
——————— rapid as the bound,
Now seem to touch the sky, and now the ground.
While hot for fame, and conquest all their care,
(Each o'er his flying courser hung in air)
Erect with ardour, pois'd upon the rein,
They PANT! — they STRETCH! — they SHOUT! along the plain.

No. IV.

DUNGANNON,

Esteemed amongst the most famous, if not the very best, son of ECLIPSE, was both bred and trained by the late Colonel O'Kelly, and is now a stallion. Among the few of his beget that have appeared, is Mr. Wilson's Lurcher. The great attachment of this horse to a sheep, which by some accident got into his paddock, is very singular.

This is really a wonderful and fine picture, and to say more of it, would be to multiply encomium to impertinence.

No. V.

VOLUNTEER,

Was also bred and trained by the late Colonel O'Kelly, and is likewise a favourite son of ECLIPSE, and much approved as a stallion. The portrait in this picture is Mr. O'Kelly's stud groom.

This horse is full of spirit and fire, and has given a fine opportunity to Mr. Stubb's, to display that ability he is so justly famed for. This horse is described in the attitude of avoiding the groom, who is endeaouring to catch him; there is something in the landscape particularly beautiful.

No. VI.

GIMCRACK,

A little horse of great beauty, and for his size a capital runner; was afterwards a stallion in the stud of Earl Grosvenor. The landscape represents his lordship's stud farm-house, at Ox-

croft

croft, near *Newmarket*, and the portrait is that of one of the assistant grooms.

A very fine picture.

No. VIII.

MAMBRINO,

Was chosen by Mr. Stubbs, not only as a capital horse, worthy to be inserted in this work, but from his being so beautiful and animated a subject for the painter.

And indeed the painter has done the strictest justice to his subject.

No. VIII.

SWEETBRIAR,

Was a horse of considerable note, both as a racer and a stallion.

"This fiery courser urg'd his rapid pace,
So swift, it seem'd a flight, and not a race."

Attached to this portrait is a prodigious fine landscape, with a SWEETBRIAR in BLOOM in the fore-ground of it, significant of the horse's name.

No. IX.

SWEET-WILLIAM,

Was a good runner, and afterwards a stallion.

Equally as fine a picture, as the former, and the flower SWEET-WILLIAM adorns the fore ground of the landscape, to signify the horse's name, as before.

No. X.

PROTECTOR.

Was a good racer, and also a stallion of great note.

——" The stud obey'd,
Already at his heels they wing their way,
And seem already to retrieve the day."

A very fine picture, the black-gloss upon his coat is so well managed by the painter, that it is the admiration of all beholders.

N. B. The last four were the property of Earl Grosvenor; and the landscapes are different views of his lordship's farm at Oxcroft.

No. XI.

SHARK,

A most beautiful, as well as a very famous horse: he won five single matches for one thousand guineas each, and upwards of twenty thousand guineas in stakes. He gave Laurel and Postmaster 7lb. each, for a sweepstakes of a thousand guineas, over the Beacon Course at Newmarket. The portrait is that of Price, who trained him. He was the property of Robert Pigott, Esq.

Greatly superior to any thing we have seen, both as a portrait, and as a landscape.

No. XII.

BARONET,

Was the property of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales, who purchased him of Sir Walter Vavasour, Bart. from which circumstance he was named; he won the Oatland Stakes of two thousand guineas, and upwards, at Ascot Heath, and was rode by Chiffney, jockey to his Royal Highness, who gained much credit by the skill and dexterity he shewed in winning that race.

Mr. Stubbs has taken great pains to give the character and style of riding of this celebrated jockey, and the horse upon which he gained so much fame.

There is something very singular in this picture, the horse's legs are all off the ground, at that moment when raised by the motion of muscular strength——a bold attempt, and as well perfected: this attitude has never been yet described but by Mr. Stubbs.

No. XIII.

PUMKIN,

An excellent runner; was the property of Lord Foley.

The portrait on his back is that of Old South, the moſt celebrated jockey of his day, and particularly in matches of croſſing and joſtling.

Very animated indeed.

No. XIV.

BANDY,

Called ſo from one of his legs being crooked, was, nothwithſtanding this, one of the beſt horſes of his day, and afterwards a capital ſtallion. He was the property of Earl Groſvenor.

A very fine picture.

No. XV.

A PICTURE OF THREE COLTS, one of which gnawing the tree, was called

GNAWPOST,

who afterwards proved a very good runner, and won upwards of two thouſand guineas in ſtakes. He was the property of Jenniſon Shaftoe, Eſq.

To deſcribe all the beauties of this picture is a taſk impracticable.

No. XVI.

ANVIL,

Was the property of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales, who purchaſed him of the R. H. Lord Boringdon. He was a good runner, and is now a ſtallion in Mr. O'Kelly's ſtud.

This picture merits the ſame praiſes as the former, and theſe ſixteen for the preſent make up the exhibition, but to be augmented occaſionally, till the whole number propoſed have met the public eye, an account of which ſhall be faithfully laid before our readers, &c.

Mr. Stubbs has ſubjoined the following advertiſement:

Repeated applications having been made to Meſſrs Stubbs, to form ſome mode, by which the public in general might be accommodated with ſuch favourite ſubjects of

"THE TURF REVIEW,"

as they may chooſe, without ſubſcribing to the whole of the work, they have for that purpoſe adopted the following plan:

	£.	s.	d.
Subſcribers to the whole work, per number - -	2	2	0
Subſcribers to the work with ſmall prints only - -	0	18	0
A ſingle number complete to a non-ſubſcriber - -	2	12	6
A ſingle ditto, with ſmall prints only to ditto - -	1	1	0
Single large prints, each -	0	15	0
Single ſmall prints, each -	0	6	0

This comprehends the whole of the ingenious plan now ſet on foot by Meſſrs. Stubbs, the painter and the engraver.

"Genius like this adorns the Britiſh ſhore,
Oh! may it flouriſh 'till the land's no more."

THE THEATRE.

No. III.

THAT great ſchool of *libertiniſm*, of whoſe popular attraction, ſo much is eternally hacknied in every diurnal production of the preſs, (and from whoſe never failing ſource of novelty ſomething will ever be derived) may, in all its internal regulations, and inſcrutable ſprings of actions, be literally conſidered "a poor epitome" of MAJESTIC GREATNESS. The ſame diſtinction, that is obſerved in all nations, between the ſovereign and his ſubjects, is much more rigidly obſerved between the Manager and his truly wretched ſubordinates; his ſanctuary, or ſeat of convenience, is truly remote

mote from every species of obtrusion, and only to PRIME MINISTERS and *favourites* is his presence accessible. The sons and daughters of *Thespis*, those fascinated followers of THALIA and MELPOMENE, whose professional abilities and predominant vices, have not only afforded nutriment to a variety of necessitous hirelings, and scribbling dependents, but matter of poetic sublime to Churchill, Kelly, Pasquin and others, will most probably afford matter of characteristic delineation to the eager eye, and inquisitive ear of curiosity to the end of time. The present investigation, is not intended to pamper the personal pride, to feed the professional ostentation of the individual, but to record the variegated vicissitudes of the aggregate,—to draw from the inexhaustible store of incontrovertible anecdotes, such facts as constitute the criterion of truth: in doing which, it is become our *will*, "as it is our *purpose*."

"Nothing to extenuate, or set down *ought* in malace."

It is too universally known, that the followers of this profession are, in general estimation, the sons and daughters of vicissitude, the offspring of wretchedness; and so truly are they so, even in their *own opinions*, that in the midst of their *poverty*, (after expending the last "splendid shilling"), they crack the green room joke that they are "The happiest undone dogs alive." To a mind happily open to the more delicate sensations of refinement, they become instantly objects of equal *pity* and *admiration*; sequestered by the rejection of other classes from general society, they seem destined to eat the bread of uncertainty, dependent upon the caprice of individuals, whose taste and judgment remain alike inexplicable and undistinguished. Thus compulsively formed into a professional association.

"And when the circling glass warms their vain hearts,
They talk of beauties that they never saw,
And fancy raptures that they never knew."

Such are the predominant traits of gallantry, by which the theatrical professors are particularly known, and to these pursuits do they in general become individually appropriate. Their own adventures are as replete with variety, as the characters they represent, and the scenic mysteries *behind the curtain*, would, if accurately introduced for public exhibition, afford much greater entertainment than the most luxurious fiction of the drama. Of this we shall have occasion to introduce a great variety of the most striking proofs, in the gradational chain of future observations; and it is to this very versatility of genius, eccentricity of manners, peculiarity of dress, and singular effrontery of appearance, they are indebted for the conspicuous situation they have ever supported in the *world of letters*, and the avidity with which their characters become so truly objects of attraction. To be most authentically informed, that one of the most popular singers of the present day, was absolutely a *private* in the LIGHT CAVALRY of our sister kingdom; and another a plain downright honest *sailor* before the mast; or that a late melodious chantress originally opened "*Melton Oysters*," and a celebrated representative of Thalia, (the LAW GIVER *in female fashions*)

 shone

shone in private life in the *amiable undress* of *a chamber maid*, takes none from the excellence of professional minutiæ, but greatly adds to the life and spirit of *female curiosity*. Of these contrasts, and the various gradational shades in the wheel of *fortune*, we shall frequently have occasion to mention, as we hereafter proceed in our remarks upon theatrical occurrences, whether before or behind the curtain.

Extraordinary Trial.

THE following extraordinary trial came on at Wakefield Sessions.—On the first day when the moor game season commenced, in August last, nine men with several dogs and guns, being met by a game-keeper on a moor belonging to his Grace of Leeds, their names were asked; one said, I am master of Manchester workhouse." A second, "I am Tom Paine." A third called himself, "Kiss my Backside." And a fourth, "Knock thee Down." And "Knock thee Down" instantly did so, pressing on the game keeper's stomach with his knees, whilst he was punched and ill treated by others. Not one of their names could be discovered, till "Knock thee Down" was accidentally recognized at Halifax, he being in actual custody on suspicion of seditious practices; having no defence to make upon his trial, he was found guilty, to the satisfaction of every honest man present, and adjudged to be imprisoned in the castle of York for one year. The Rev. Mr. Zouch, the chairman, took occasion to observe, that this assault was attended with many aggravating circumstances: Men assembling not only in open violation of the public peace, but in defiance of a known and positive law, and shewing themselves by their whole behaviour to be prepared for any other mischief. Several of them were in Court, with a view only as it was hoped, to give some evidence on the behalf of their companion; but were prudently advised to keep back, or probably they might have been destined to the same place of confinement with him.

A Vestry Meeting.

AT a late vestry meeting in a parish not many miles distant from Hyde Park Corner, a gentleman present observed, that as the church was situated on the banks of the Thames, and consequently exposed to fogs and damp air, he wished the vestry would propose a small tax, or enter into a voluntary subscription for the purchase of a Buzaglo stove, which, by rendering the church warm, would leave no apology for those who absented themselves from it, and prevent those who attended it from *colds* that often lay the foundation of fatal disorders. This proposal was well received by the majority present, and on the point of being put to the vote, when Dr. Dormouse, an eminent physician in the vicinity, begged leave to be heard, and requested, that before they *made such a motion*, they would *feel the pulse* of the parish at large, for to his certain knowledge, it would not *beat regularly* in favour of such novel and unprecedented *practice*." "I know," added this great

great descendant of Esculapius, "I know it will be said, that I am an interested party, and that I decry the prescription, because it did not flow from my own pen, and dislike the church being aired, because it would lessen the regular number of my patients and consequently curtail my fees. These are not my motives—but shall we empower our enemies to say that our religion is cold, that our fire is extinguished, and that our devotion must be warmed by a German stove! Forbid it, Galen and Hippocrates!" — The physician having concluded, he was followed, as he regularly ought to be, by the apothecary; who declared that he perfectly agreed with his learned friend, and thought farther, that introducing a stove invented by a Jew into a church, threw a remote stigma on the Christian religion; added to which, the perspiration which would be produced by such additional heat, would render the congregation who went into the open air, with open pores, more liable to colds when they walked out of church, than they were in it, as things were.

The *trio* was completed by *the parish undertaker*, who next arose, and said, that, "not being in the *habit of speechifying*, he should not travel over much *ground* before he was *mute*; he would not *throw dust* in the eyes of his hearers by talking about matters out of the way of his own business, and therefore left the wholesomeness or unwholesomeness of the stove to those whose *line* it was to study it. For his own part, he thought this—If folks could not live without so much *fuss*, why—they had better die out of the way; and this he would be bold to say, and appeal to all his neighbours for the truth of it, no man *in the trade* could *perform* their funerals in a more decent way than himself."

These professional arguments were unanswerable, and joined to those of the two preceding speakers, had the intended effect. The stove business was dropped—perhaps for ever!

COCKING.

THE three days fighting between Fisher and Gladdish, at the Cockpit Royal, on *Tuesday*, *Wednesday*, and *Thursday*, the 21st 22d, and 23d, terminated in favour of Fisher, eleven battles a-head.

On Monday the 27th, the grand Subscription Match began fighting. BROMLEY and WALTER, Feeder——They shewed sixty-one on each side, of which only thirty-two fell into the main; at setting to the odds upon the long main, were six to five, and five to four in favour of Walter, but when this number went to press (at the conclusion of the first night) Bromley was one battle a-head in the main: *byes* equal.

The fourth great Spring Subscription begins fighting *Monday*, February 17, and continues the week——Bromley and Fisher, Feeders.

ORIGIN *of the* WORD SPINSTER.

AMONG our ancestors, it was a custom, that no woman should be married, till she had spun, with her own hand, a complete set of body, bed, and table linen. From this custom it is, that the unmarried women, to the present day, are in the law phrase

phrase called *spinsters*, although, as Mrs. Winifred Jenkins very justly observes, "they *mought* as well be called *inkle-weavers*, for few of them ever spun a hank of yarn in their lives."

EXTRACT *from the* THIRD VOLUME *of* ASIATIC RESEARCHES.

WE shall, at proper intervals, resume the subject of this interesting volume; but that we may not be thought tedious, from a want of variety, we subjoin the following translation from the Greek of Polyænus, an author by no means so well known as he deserves. This writer has left, in very pure Greek, a collection of stratagems of which the invention and credit is imputed to the more celebrated of the ancient heroes and warriors. They are arranged under different heads, thus—

PAN.

Pan was the first person who struck terror into an enemy's army by the means of artifice and stratagem. Some spies had informed Bacchus, who was stationed in the hollow of a wood, that an immense host was encamped against him. Bacchus was terrified; Pan was not; in the night Pan instructed the followers of Bacchus to set up a loud and continued shout. The rocks reverberated the sound, and this repeated from the hollow of the wood, made it appear to the enemy as produced by a prodigious multitude. Their adversaries fled in terror and confusion. In remembrance of this stratagem of Pan, Echo is represented as his beloved and favourite mistress, and the nocturnal terrors of armies are called PANICS.

To the EDITORS *of the* SPORTING MAGAZINE.

GENTLEMEN,

HAVING seen in your Magazine of December, 1792, an account of the exploits of two game cocks, but not having since seen therein any similar performances, I am induced to send you an account of a grey duckwing cock, a few years since in my possession.

In the course of three years, he won twenty-two battles, and was never beat.—He fought at Mr. Dyer's, the Star and Garter, in Worcester, three times in one day, for five guineas a battle; beating a cock of Mr. Dyer's, one of a Mr. Sparry's of Worcester, and one of Caleb Garway's, Esq. of Worcester. He fought twice at Camp near Worcester, beating a cock of a Mr. Portman's, of Worcester, and a cock of Mr. Getley's (the feeder), of Broomsgrove. He fought at Leigh Stinton, near Worcester, beating a cock of a Mr. Stone's. At Mr. Randle's, the Ketch, near Worcester, he beat a cock of Mr. Randle's.—At the Star and Garter, in Worcester, he beat a cock of a Mr. Dugard of Worcester.—At the cock-pit in Frog-lane, Worcester, he beat, at separate times, a cock of a Mr. Morris, a cock of a Mr. Lingard, and a cock of another gentleman's,—At Mr. Brewer's, the boat-house, near Worcester, he beat at four several times, four cocks of Mr. Brewer's.—At Mr. Sanders's, the Swan Inn, in St. John's near Worcester, he beat a cock of Mr. Sanders's.—At Mr. Rastall's of Knightsford Bridge, near Worcester, he beat a cock of Mr. Rastall's.—At Leigh, near Worcester, he beat a cock of a Mr. Walker.—At the Star and Garter

Garter in Worcester, he beat two cocks of a Mr. Gost, of Chester. At Powick, near Worcester, he beat a cock of a gentleman, (whose name I have now forgot) and also a cock of a Mr. Hill, sword-bearer of Worcester, after his wing was broke.—A relation of mine, of Brosely, in Shropshire, then requested me to give the cock to him, which I did, he never fought afterwards, and died in his possession at Brosely. I could send you accounts of many others, but think I have trespassed on you sufficiently for the present. If you consider the above, worth insertion in your entertaining Magazine, you may possibly hear from me again on the same subject.

I am, &c.

JOHN BAKER.

Worcester,
Jan. 28, 1794.

A fair MATRIMONIAL TRICK.

A CAPTAIN of militia, lately paid his addresses to the daughter of a reputable farmer, in the neighbourhood of his quarters, and, after in vain endeavouring to seduce her, at last proposed a private marriage. The young lady acquainted her father with the proposal, who assented to the marriage, provided the person who married them was of his own appointment. This was agreed to on the part of the captain who well knew, as the young lady was of the Roman Catholic persuasion, and he a Protestant, that such marriage must be *illegal.* The ceremony was performed, and the nuptials privately celebrated at the farm-house, where the captain was a constant visitor till the camp broke up, when he marched off, even without taking leave.

The consequence was, that the father followed him to London, and having had an interview, was laconically told by his *son-in-law*, that "the marriage was invalid, on account of the difference of their religion." The honest farmer replied, "if that was the only *cause*, it was already removed, for having had proper intimation of his designs, he caused his daughter publicly to read her recantation from the church of Rome, and to embrace the Protestant religion, four days previous to the nuptials,; and that he had also procured a *special licence* for the purpose; so that the connubial knot at present was indissoluble."

How the captain was affected, may be conceived: he will inherit a large estate, and the farmer's daughter is in a fair way of producing him an heir to it.

CURIOUS SPEECH.

The Earl of Coningsby to the Mayor and Corporation of Hereford, in the year 1718.

"MR. Mayor, your servant—Gentlemen, your's: d—n you all!—I'll have you to know, by G—d, that I am Lord Lieutenant and Custos Rotulorum of this county, and Lord High-Steward of this city, (and that for life); and G—d d—n you, I'll do what I please with you and your city.

"I hear some of you are for that Pretender; by G—d, a fellow whom his own mother has disowned; and I am informed, that a lady, of the strictest virtue and best reputation, would have deposed before you upon oath, by G—d, that that impudent rascal that

that sits there, said that this fellow was the rightful heir to the crown: you refused to take her oath! by G—d, her deposition! G—d d—n you, I speak to you, Mr. Mayor—and you, Mr. Taylor, who are a jacobite, and a fellow without a soul, G—d d—n you. I am also informed, that a pack of wretches, one of which is an exciseman, and another of 'em a fellow who eats the King's bread, meeting in the market-house on the 10th of June, drank the Pretender's health, and proclaimed him king. And I hear you had your oaken boughs and white roses, G——d d——n you.—— There are but three honest men in the town, by G—d; which are Tom Bailey, Dr. Lewis, and Mr. Biron.

Description *of* London.

BY DR. JOHNSON.

PERHAPS in no age or country has a metropolis been better characterized than the metropolis of England, in the words of Johnson. "If you wish to have a just notion of the magnitude of this city, you must not be satisfied with seeing its great streets and squares, but must survey the innumerable little alleys and courts. It is not in the shewy evolutions of buildings, but in the mutiplicity of human habitations which are crowded together that the immensity of London consists. I have often amused myself with thinking how different a place London is to different people. They whose narrow minds are contracted to the consideration of some one particular object, view it only through that medium. A politician thinks of it merely as a seat of government in its different apartments; a grazier, as a vast market for cattle; a mercantile man, as a place where a prodigious deal of business is done upon 'Change; a dramatic enthusiast, as the grand scene of theatrical entertainments; a man of pleasure, as an assemblage of taverns, and the great emporium for ladies of easy virtue; but the intellectual man is struck with it, as comprehending the *whole of human life in all its variety*, the contemplation of which is inexhaustible."

To the Editors *of the* Sporting Magazine.

Gentlemen,

DURING the course of a journey, which I am just returned from, through Lincolnshire, &c. the following hand-bill was given me.—As I conceive it analogous to the plan of your work, I send it for your inspection and insertion, if you deem it worthy.

I am, &c.

T. C.

TO be fought for at Donnington, near Boston, Lincolnshire, on the 27th instant, a large fat hog, supposed to weigh 30 stone, by 16 cocks, each cock not to exceed 4lb. 8oz. the subscriber of each cock to pay 10s. 6d. For every stone deficient of the above weight 6s. per stone will be deducted; should the weight exceed, the overplus must be paid by the winner, who must also pay 1l. 1s. to the second best cock; the winner of the hog may chuse either the hog or the money. The second day will be given, a free prize of two guineas; the best cock to have 1l. 1s. the second to have 10s. 6d. the two third 5s. 3d. each.

Decision

Decision *respecting the overturning of a* **Stage Coach**, *by the negligence of the Driver.*

Wright *and* **Wife** *v.* **Harris.**

THIS was an action brought against the defendants, as proprietors of the Coventry stage coach, to recover a compensation in damages for an injury sustained, as was alledged, through the negligence of their driver.

In August last, the Coventry coach was proceeding on its journey near Holloway turnpike, with *eight* outside passengers, and a woman on the box, to whom the coachman had resigned the reins—he kept *toying* with her, and the horses went where they had a mind—after going a considerable way in a *zig-zag* direction, the wheel came against a *spur* that was placed as an abutment to some boarding for the purpose of supporting the bank. The consequence was, that Mrs. Wright was thrown from the top, and the coach fell upon her. By this accident she had several of her teeth knocked out, her leg so severely fractured, than an immediate amputation was unavoidably necessary, in order to save her life.

As the counsel for the defendant was urging several alleviating circumstances to the jury, the parties consented to settle the business without proceeding further—the offer was 300l.

Lord Kenyon observed, that no blame attached on the proprietors of this coach, and he was sorry the innocent should suffer for the guilty; but the law required that the master should be responsible for the act of his servant. In cases of this kind, where the accident happened subsequent to, or perhaps in consequence of the violation of Mr. Gammon's act, for the security of passengers, his Lordship had been in the habit of animadverting severely on the conduct of coachmen, who derided and treated that salutary law with the utmost contempt. This he did to promulgate it, and to convince them that they, as well as the passengers, had an interest in a strict observance of it.

The defendant consented to a verdict of 300l.

Hyde Park.

THAT hebdomadal display of Foppery, Frivolity, and Fashion, has already begun to sport its vernal variety of *indescribables.* No idea of personal pride, ornamental frippery, or *equestrian* parade, can equal this *Sunday's* scene of ridiculous confusion; every descriptive power of the great Geoffry Gambado, becomes too faint for any adequate representation, and must, if attempted, fall so infinitely short of the sublime original, that it leaves us only to explore the regions of folly, and lament the unbounded confidence, and degenerate frailty of human nature. From this great mart of versatility, entertainment may be derived, and instruction extracted; it may, with propriety, be surveyed as a great school of life, where the contemplative man will find ample food for the most insatiate reflection, and be inabled to gratify every ray of expansive rumination. Here it is that innate ambition throws off the mask of affected diffidence, and displays herself in a true and undisguised state of nature; where every character of *distinguished effrontery*, from the *peer* to the *apprentice*, become *open, unequivocal* candidates for the most

moſt ſovereign contempt. Amidſt this pantomimic, and heterogeneous combination of equeſtrian competition, we conſtantly obſerve various well-known characters, who ſport, as well as that *great body of inanimates*, who are eternally ſported with; to delineate ſuch (as for their *folly* or *impertinence* are become conſpicuouſly ridiculous), will be the peculiar province of certain pages in this work. We ſhall not only take a ſlight ſurvey of an antiquated DUKE, but an *abandoned Baronet*, ſhould ſuch fall in our way; and make not the leaſt doubt, but we ſhall be enabled to produce ſketches of no *inferior* reſemblance in the more extenſive field of mediocrity; as well as to convey accurate inſtructions for the regulation of conduct, and to ride with *ſafety*, where horſes are ſo often interſected in the faſhionable mode of galloping *five or ſix a-breaſt*, or more properly, *charging a la militaire*. Theſe are efforts in the extinction of modeſty, that, to an inexperienced man, bear at firſt the appearance of *impoſſibility*, and "more honoured in the *breach* than the *obſervance*;" they may have been formerly ſo, we admit, but the "faſhion is now changed," and to be of the *ton*, (and conſequently *reſpectable)*, we muſt become ſubſervient to her moſt abſurd and imperious dictations. It is to this arbitrary deciſion on one part, and implicit obedience on the other, that we are indebted for the motley combination of variegated dependents upon *folly*, and ſlaves to *ignorance*, that conſtitute ſo rich, ſo inexhauſtible a picture for mental gratification. Of theſe it will be our particular care to ſelect ſuch *lights*, *ſhades*, and *relicts* (as the ſeaſon advances), that cannot but prove *entertaining* at leaſt, if not *inſtructive* to the generality of our Sporting Readers, particularly in and near the metropolis.

SPORTING INTELLIGENCE.

MENDOZA AND WARD.

THESE two pugiliſts met at Hounſlow, for the purpoſe of determining their long depending match, when the magiſtrates very properly aſſembled a party of horſe-ſoldiers, and diſperſed the great and ſmall vulgar who had gathered together on the occaſion; of courſe the battle did not take place. After, however, the ſoldiers had returned to their quarters, ſome ſubordinate matches were made up, and decided in the neighbourhood.

A match is made between Big Ben, and Wood the coachman; they are to fight on the 24th of February, but the place is not yet fixed. The odds are in favour of Ben.

The following melancholy accident happened lately at Acomb, near York: A young man of that place, named John Hebdin, deſigning to go out and ſhoot ſome birds, took his gun into a blackſmith's ſhop; juſt as he had loaded it, a ſpark from the blackſmith's anvil flew againſt the pan, and cauſed the gun to go off, when the contents unfortunately lodged in the young man's head, and he died immediately.

A TROTTING MATCH, A RECENT FACT.

In a provincial town, a gentleman was lately exhibiting at the door

door of an inn, a capital trotting mare, which had won every match she had ever been engaged in, when a butcher of the town stepping up, offered to trot his black poney against her for twenty guineas—a smile of contempt was the only notice he at first received, however, the knight of the cleaver persisting in his original offer, the bet was accepted, and the next morning appointed for the match—four miles from the spot where they then were.——The black poney was one of those *shuffling bits of blood*, which are very commonly the property of butchers—its owner appeared at the starting post, mounted on its rump, with his tray before him, and by way of swish, as he called it, brandished a small marrow bone. He was allowed the start, when immediately afterwards, as his competitor was rapidly passing him, he rattled a flourish upon his tray, which of course had the instantaneous effect of frightening the high-mettled mare into a gallop. This repeatedly was the case; and as often, according to the etiquette of trotting matches, was the too hasty beast obliged to stop and turn round, and thus ultimately the black poney was made to win hollow.—A complete *do!*

A few days since, a man, in company with the Rev. Mr. Graves, of Lackford, being in pursuit of some bustards, near Thetford, his gun burst, and shattered his arm so dreadfully, that he died on Friday last, in Thetford Workhouse.

Hares was scarcely ever known to be so numero us on the Sussex Downs, as at the present time, and this the mild weather may, in some measure account for, as they have continued to breed during all the autumnal months, and several have been killed within the last fortnight, that were big with young.

Snipes are now in greater abundance in this country, than ever before remembered; our Zoologists account for the circumstance, by the nearly general and incessant firing of cannon on the Continent, the report of which, frightens them to more peaceful regions.

Last week a *grey parrot* died at the age of forty years, thirty-nine of which period, it had been in the possession of Mr. Charles Great, of Colchester.

The Essex inn-keepers, on the Colchester-road, unable to bear up any longer against the high price of corn and hay, and the advance of every other article in their line, now make the following charges for post-horses, viz.

	per mile s.	D.
For a pair of horses, with one person	1	0
For ditto, with two ditto	1	1
For ditto, with three ditto	1	2
For four horses	2	0
For a saddle horse	0	6

We are told that Tyne, the bruiser, and the Young Ruffian, both prisoners in the King's Bench, are to fight in the course of a few days. We cannot state whether this is the fact, but we believe the marshal has too much good sense, to suffer any such indecencies within the limits of his authority.

The game laws are the richest treasure a country attorney possesses. It enables him to bring more grist to his mill, than any

 other

other act in the statutes. Information follows information, until the offending party is exchequered, at last, to the amount of 6 or 700l.

A few days ago, Thomas Clark, an Irish chairman, in St. James's Street, danced against a Scotch *barber*, at a house in New Bond Street, for four pounds of rump stakes, oyster-sauce, a gallon of porter, and a crown bowl of punch: when after nimbly tripping three hornpipes each, victory was declared in favour of the sedan-carrier, but not before an excellent mahogany table, on which they danced, became a victim to the extraordinary capers of the *Hibernian* conqueror.

Lady Buckinghamshire, Lady Archer, and Mrs. Sturt, have already commenced their *faro* campaign.

The Prince Bishop of Bamberg and Wurtzberg, has established a college, upon the plan of the veterinary college, near London. The bishop has endowed a public lecturer, whom the smiths, farriers, &c. of Wurtzberg, are required to attend twice a week.

A young gentleman of polite address and elegant manners, lately appeared at Bath, as the Chevalier de Romanville, the son of the Duc de Rochesseris. His person and conversation easily impressed several families of fashion in his favour, who where proud to profess themselves his friends. Unfortunately, however, our *accomplished knight* was present at a ball, where a gentleman, who had formerly witnessed some dexterous manœuvres, which the Chevalier had learned to practise among his other scientific experiments, had the presumption to betray them. The secret was speedily circulated, and the *honourable foreigner* thought proper to decamp next morning, according to the vulgar adage, without one successful opportunity of displaying his *surprising ingenuity*.

NEWCASTLE, *Friday*, *Dec.* 20.

SWEEPSTAKES of 10gs each, over the Town Moor. Heats one mile each.

Mr. Wright's spotted m. Doctress	2	1	2
Mr. Pratt's gr. h. Œdipus, Junior	1	2	2
Mr. Haile's br. h. Northumberland	3	3dr	

DONCASTER, *Dec.* 20.

A match.—Mr. Goulston's b. h. beat Mr. Johnstone's ch. h. 200gs. h. ft. Two 4-mile heats. Mr. Goulston won easy.

YORK, *Dec.* 21.

On Monday last, a match was run from this place, to Hull, by Mr. Cooke's bay poney, and Mr. Southern's grey poney, which was won by the former. The distance is 38 miles, and was run in three hours and about twenty minutes. Considerable bets depended on this race.

NEWCASTLE, *Dec.* 21.

The horrible effects of a canine madness, are so shocking to humanity, that we have often been much surprised that greater care and more effectual means are not constantly used to prevent its dreadful influence: Samuel Dobson, a farmer at Kenton, who had the misfortune to be bitten by a mad dog, about four months since, was suddenly taken ill on Wednesday se'nnight; medical

assistance

assistance was immediately procured—he was salivated, and the other proscribed means used for his recovery, but we are sorry to say, that he died in the most violent convulsions, with the strongest symptoms of the hydrophobia. After the bite, applications were administered, to prevent the fatal effects, but they were unfortunately unsuccessful.

A boy, that was bitten by the same dog, has also died of the same disorder: and another has never yet been affected The dog ran in its mad rage through this town, and bit several dogs; many of which were destroyed in consequence. The magistrates very properly issued an order, that dogs should be either confined or muzzled: but the general neglect of complying with that regulation, has been too notorious to every man's observation, to demand a remark upon it. Several dogs have also gone mad on Gateshead Fell; and we have heard of one man there having been seized with the same disorder.

PEDESTRIAN EXPLOIT.

On Saturday, December 22, a Caledonian and a disciple of Esculapius of Denbigh, started to run, the former fifty yards, with a man on his back, whilst the other was to run 100 yards. The Caledonian with all his imperfections on his back, won the wager by fifteen yards.

Monday, Dec. 23, Ld Derby's famous stag, called Sailor Ben, was taken, after a very hard run, in a stable at Walworth; he was pursuing his old course to the Thames; last year he swam across below Gravesend, and the year before took the river from Rotherhithe.

A cruel rascal, on Monday night, Dec. 30, at Covent Garden, Theatre, flung a terrier dog from the two shilling gallery on to the stage, during the performance of the pantomime. The poor animal lay senseless for more than two minutes, and afterwards howling in a shocking manner. The people very properly declared their resentment of such conduct, by the strongest marks of disapprobation.

At a foot-race, on Tuesday, December 31, on the Edmonton road, the winner ran nine miles in an hour and seven minutes.

FOOT RACE.

On the 1st of January, at one o'clock the long depending contest between Cumberland and Westmoreland, was decided on Ashton Moor, the distance was two hundred yards. The noted B. Smith, on the part of Westmoreland, and W. Turton on the part of Cumberland Previous to starting, the odds were five to four in favour of Smith, and, if men were to form a judgment by the disparity of the candidates, in regard to personal appearance, such an odds was to be justified by discretion; as Smith was five feet eleven inches in height, and remarkably stout in his muscular proportions, and Turton a little dejected looking being, with apparently scarce strength enough to crawl to the winning post—but there is no faith in appearances—the self confident Smith was discomfited—Turton felt for the honour of his county, and, on the signal being given, started from his post with the celerity of an arrow driven from the bow of Achilles.

From the nicest calculations it was asserted on the field, that Turton,

Turton ran the two hundred yards in fixteen seconds. He was received at the winning post by an universal shout; upwards of two thousand pounds were betted on the occasion.

Previous to this defeat, the farmers in the vicinity of Abbey Holm used to offer any sum, that Smith would run, fight, shoot, toss the half-hundred, or play at long-balls with any man in England; but that boast is no more.

Sic transit gloria mundi.

FOX-CHASE, CUMBERLAND.

On Monday the 6th of January, Mr. Norman's hounds (of White-Water Dash) started a fox near Whitfield: he took a straight course to Isell Park, and made several rounds before he was forced out. He then made towards Skiddaw, but being hard pressed at Bassenthwaite, he returned to the park, in which, and the adjacent grounds, he afforded good sport for two hours, when the dogs lost him (by starting a fresh one), after running him full seven hours: during which time they were never half a mile distant, and often very near him. It is thought to be the hardest chase ever run in that neighbourhood.

BULLOCK HUNTING.

Monday, January 13th, a very fine bullock was turned out of Smithfield, after breaking halter, twenty or thirty at his tail, he made a point to Islington, but was turned back before he cleared St. John Street, crossed Wood's Close, went down Goswell Street, turned to the left and skirted Old Street, where he began to shew sport: after goring a woman, and tossing a boy, he made for the City Road, ran through Old Street Road, and crossed Shoreditch, where the pursuit was joined by a number of Spitalonians; being close pressed, he run into a dust-yard and killed an old sow. After breaking cover, he butted through Bishopsgate Street, and made for the Exchange, where he frighted a number of *bulls* and *bears*, and insinuated his horns through the ribs of a Dutch merchant: from thence he took through Cheapside to the Fleet Market, where he overturned the fish and fruit stalls. After which he came back to Smithfield, coursed through Long Lane, Barbican, turned to the right, and away through Fore Street, to Moorfields, where two fresh dogs were let loose, who pinned him. He was haltered and dragged to a slaughter-house, where he was killed. A great number of butcher boys, drovers, and blackguards of every denomination attended the chace, at which they expressed great satisfaction, several of these *gentlemen* were in at the death.

BETTING ROOM.

MONDAY, JANUARY 13th.

BETTED

1000 to 40 neither Hawker, Egham, or Tim Tartlet, win the St. Leger, at Doncaster.

200 Even the field against the following five, for the first class of the Oatlands, viz. Creeper, Cinebar, Monkey, and Lurcher.

Even betting between Buzzard and Coriander, for ditto

200 to 20 Creeper don't win.

200 to 29 Monkey don't win.

100 to 40 neither Creeper nor Precipitate win.

100 to 50 the D. of Bedford's Dungannon colt against Idle for the Derby.

POETRY.

POETRY.

THE HIGH COURT OF DIANA.

ODE

FOR THE YEAR, 1794.

By Henry James Pye, Esq. *Poet Laureat.*

I.

NURTUR'D in storms, the infant year
Comes in terrific glory forth,
Earth meets him wrapp'd in mantle drear,
And the loud tempest sings his birth.
Yet 'mid the elemental strife,
Brood the rich germs of vernal life.
From January's iron reign,
And the dark month's succeeding train,
The renovated glebe prepare
For genial May's ambrosial air,
For fruits that glowing summer yields,
For laughing Autumn's golden fields;
And the stout swain whose frame defies
The driving storm, the hostile skies;
While his keen plowshare turns the stubborn soil,
Knows plenty only springs the just reward of toil.

II.

Then if fell war's tempestuous sound,
Swell far and wide with louder roar,
If stern th' avenging nations round
Threaten yon fate-devoted shore,
Hope points to gentler hours again
When peace shall re-assume her reign.—
Yet never o'er his timid head
Her lasting olives shall be spread,
Whose breast inglorious woos her charms
When fame, when justice call to arms.—
While Anarchy's infuriate brood,
Their garments dyed with guiltless blood,
With Titan rage blaspheming try
Their impious battle 'gainst the sky.
Say, shall Britannia's generous sons embrace
In folds of amity the happy race,
Or aid the sword that coward fury rears,
Red with the widow's blood, wet with the orphan's tears?

III.

But tho' her martial thunder fall
Vindictive o'er oppressions haughty crest,
Awake to pity's suasive call,
She spreads her buckler o'er the suffering breast.—
From seas that roll by Gallia's southmost steep,
From the rich isle that crown th' Atlantic deep,
The plaintive sigh, the heart-felt groan
Are wafted to her Monarch's throne;
Open to mercy, prompt to save,
His ready navies plow the yielding wave,
The ruthless arm of savage licence awe,
And guard the sacred reign of freedom and of law.

THE JOLLY RINGERS.

OFT has the world been well defin'd
By savers and by singers;
I call't a belfrey, and mankind
I call the jolly ringers.
Through majors, bobs, and triple-bobs,
Each emulously ranges;
And while each anxious bosom throbs,
All try to ring the changes.

These college youths are sent to school,
And afterwards to college,
And thence return by square and rule,
Well versed in worldly knowledge.
As genius leads, to cram his maw,
Each art's close labrynth ranges;
And on religion physic, law,
Completely ring the changes.

The fortune-hunter swears and lies,
And courts the widow's jointure,
Then with a richer heiress flies,
Nor minds to disappoint her.
The widow too, has her arch whim,
Nor thinks his conduct strange is;
A titled heir succeeds to him,
And thus she rings the changes.

The waiter pillages the greek,
The greek, the spendthrift fleeces,
The spendthrift, makes dad's fortune squeak,
Dad rack-rents and grants leases.
The tenants break, gazette reports
Each difference arranges,
Till pro and con, through all the courts,
The lawyers ring the changes.

Thus

Thus, like the bells, each fear and hope,
Hangs wav'ring and suspended,
All tug away, while some a rope,
Get more than they intended.
In merry cadence, as they roll,
We'll rove where reason ranges;
Nor shall the bell of sadness toll,
Till death shall ring the changes.

BAGATELLE.

BY THE LATE DR. JOHNSON.

If e'er my fingers touch the lyre,
In satire fierce, in pleasure gay,
Shall not my THRALIA's smiles inspire?
Shall Sam refuse the sportive lay?

My dearest lady! view your slave,
Behold him as your very *scrub*,
Eager to write, as author grave,
Or govern well the *brewing tub*.

To rich felicity thus raised,
My bosom glows with am'rous fire:
Porter no longer shall be praised,
'Tis I myself am THRALE's *Entire*.

The following whimsical Jeu d'Esprit, was sent the other day to Shield, the ingenious composer, for his Ivory Tickets, by his friend Peter Pindar.

SON of the *String*, (I do not mean *Jack* Ketch,
Tho' *Jack*, like thee, produceth *dying tones*)
Oh! yield thy pity to a starving wretch,
And for to-morrow's *treat* pray send thy *bones*.

THE TOKEN.

FROM DIBDIN'S "CASTLES IN THE AIR."

THE breeze was fresh, the ship in stays,
Each breaker hush'd the shore a-haze,
When Jack, no more on duty call'd,
His true-love's tokens over-haul'd:—
The broken gold—the braided hair—
The tender motto, written fair
Upon his 'bacco box he views,—
Nancy the poet, love the muse;
"If you loves I as I loves you,
No pair so happy as we two."

The storm—that like a shapeless wreck
Had strew'd with ruins all the deck,
That tars for sharks had giv'n a feast,
And left the ship a hulk,—had ceas'd
When Jack, as with his messmates dear
He shar'd the grog their hearts to cheer,
Took from his 'bacco box a quid,
And spell'd for comfort on the lid,
"If you loves I, &c."

The battle, that with horror grim,
Had madly ravag'd life and limb,
Had scuppers drench'd with human gore,
And widow'd many a wife, was o'er:
When Jack to his companions dear
First paid the tribute of a tear:
Then, as his 'bacco box was held,
Restor'd his comfort as he spell'd,
"If you loves I, &c."

The voyage that had been long and hard,
But that had yielded full reward,
That brought each soldier to his friend
Happy and rich,—was at an end:
When Jack, his toils and perils o'er,
Beheld his Nancy on the shore;
He then his 'bacco-box display'd,
And cry'd, and seiz'd the yielding maid,
If you loves I, &c."

THE ZODIAC.

A Song made for the Robinhood Society of Archers, assembled at their Annual Ball, held at Wooton-Underedge, in the Clothing part of Gloucestershire—Dedicated by Permission to MISS GUISE.

The words by a Member—Music by HAYMAN FLORIO, Son of the able-bodied Flute-player.*

———Son potenza armi
Delia Donna Bellezza e Leggiadria.
AMINTA.

Tho' with the bow, the snowy arm may wound,
Yet in the eye the surest death is found.

Sung in the Character of SAGITTARIUS.

AS APOLLO, the rosy-fac'd God of the Bow,
Th' Ecliptic was ganging along:
He tipp'd me the wink, "Brother String! step below,
"And give my choice Archers a song."

He informs this fair train, that through all his career,
While his beams drove old NIGHT from the skies,
In all the Globes' quarters, there doth not appear,
Such an assemblage of Shape, Air, and Eyes.

---

* Capt Snug.

The

The beautiful VIRGO he paſs'd by a while
So elegant and debonair:
"Mighty SOL," cried the Maid, with ſignificant ſmile,
"Be my laſſes the chief of your care."

You dames too who ſip of chaſte HYMEN the ſweets,
And an heir for your Lords have in view:
With a roguiſh intent little GEMINI greets——
So perhaps, you may bleſs them with TWO.

Of the ſtern Britiſh LEO, his rays ſcorch'd the Mane,
And he bade him be true to JOHN BULL:
"Who's afraid? growl'd he, rouſing, and lay down again,
"Whilſt my archers have quivers brimful."

The ſhaggy old ARIES too, treated with ſcorn,
The inſolent foes of the State;
He ſhook his rough forehead, and ſwore by his horn,
"Their ramparts ſhould yield to his pate."

The Fleeces SEGOVIAN, our Looms no more want.
Our ſtaple's ſo fam'd through the world:
Whilſt the Fates by our laws ſolid Liberty grant,
We care not what thunder be hurl'd.

Cried TAURUS, the maid I once bore on my back,
And travers'd in triumph the ſeas,
And eſteem'd as a prize worth an Indian lack,
Was a bankrupt in beauty to *Theſe*.

AQUARIUS had glided the univerſe o'er,
Thro' climes of extreme heat and cold:
But ne'er did his eyes, with amazement before,
Such a *tiſſue of beauty* behold.

"Ye NEREIDS and NAIADS, once Idols of Fame,
Quoth PISCES, your fate is ſevere;
To paramount excellence, Britain lays claim—
So VENUS thy temple is here.

Pale ENVY, cried LIBRA, by Jealouſy gored,
Says 'tis all a poetical clue,
But I do declare *in this Court of Record*,
Every *Count* in the *Brief* to be true!

Should you aſk why his Godſhip is abſent to night,
Perhaps he has a DAPHNE in chace—
Then let **Cupid's arrow* your fancies delight
Till his beams your ſoft boſoms embrace.

Let each archer ſo ſtout who has a heart to beſtow,
Take a Nymph from this circle divine;
May the ſhaft that ſubdues it from Cupids ſure bow,
Be a pledge to the CONJUGAL SHRINE.

THE MATCH AT PIQUET.

AFTER breakfaſt, ſays Nancy, well, what ſhall we do?
Will you try me again, and our party renew?
The girl was inviting, the morning was wet,
So I ſtaid at her challenge, the match was piquet.

All matters adjuſted, the conteſt we try,
I went out ſtrong in hand, and my courage was high;
Come on, my dear girl, it is well we are met,
I'll give you enough of your game of piquet.

I defy you, ſays ſhe, 'tis not boaſting will win;
So give me, my dear, what I'm to take in,
Then ſhe laid down her point, mine againſt it I ſet,
She allow'd it was good at this game of piquet.

But *quint* and *quatorze* too, ſhe reckon'd away,
I could hold no ſuch thing, ſo deſir'd her to play;
And the huſſy ſo play'd, I was ſoon in her debt,
Both laugh'd at, and lurch'd, at this game of piquet.

Well, my lad, never mind, when your courage will riſe,
You ſhall have your revenge, ſhe jeeringly cries;
And as long as I found I had ſomething to bet,
I attack'd her again at this game of piquet.

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*The beginning and concluding dance made by a member of firſt rate muſical talents.

Hh But

But each effort I made, still the case was the same,
Till no stake I could raise, then I left off the game;
For the player, believe me, no credit will get.
Who offers unfurnish'd to play at piquet.

Yet so sweet is this game my fond fancy pursues,
I'll never decline it though certain to lose,
But morn, noon, or night, take the challenge up yet,
And sport with my Nancy at charming piquet.

I. I. B.

To the EDITORS of the SPORTING MAGAZINE,

GENTLEMEN,

THE following was written before your Magazine commenced, and though a few lines were then peculiarly applicable, yet I think them not irrevalent at this period; if you will insert them with the translation, I will thank you much.

An INVITATION *from a* COUNTRY 'SQUIRE *to a* ROBIN RED BREAST.

" Dona præsentis rape lætus horæ, ac
——————— Linque severa."

HOR.

" Accept the proffer'd boon, and enter here,
" And leave to hardier birds the air severe."

CAPT. SNUG.

WELCOME, poor Robin! at my door,
Now all the fields are silver'd o'er.
And frost hath made the limpid rill
Impervious to thy feeble bill:
No more the red worm canst thou spy
Beneath thy perspicacious eye,
And hips and haws are vulgar food
For birds of thy superior blood.
Welcome, sweet inmate, at my table,
And eat thy fill, as thou art able;
If crumbs alone are humble fare,
Partake with me of dainties rare;
The puff, the X-mas pie and tart,
Composed with culinary art;
And when the cloth is ta'en away,
And tapers close the twilight grey,
Hop on the hearth, and plume thy wing,
And sing as thou art wont to sing;
Or tell the legendary tale,
How children twain, all wan and pale,
Wandering the solitary wood*,
Fell victims to a lack of food:
How thy forefathers good and kind,
Endow'd with more than *birdly* mind,
Heap'd on each corpse the leafy shroud,
Sorrowing, yet of their office proud.
And scattering many a flowery stem,
Trill'd sweetly—*The sad requiem.*
Welcome, sweet songster, to my glass,
And thou shall see how minutes pass.
When *love* and *friendship* rule the roast,
And wine is sanctioned by—*a toast.*
Come! sip to *George* the rosy wine,
The *Queen*, and all the *royal line*;
Then to *thy absent auburn love*,
Who sighs for thee, in some cold grove.
But now as Prussia is our theme,
And o'er all topics reigns supreme,
Falernian† *juice*, resign thy cork,
And smiling hail——*The House of York*‡.

Latiné Reditta
Eodem,
AD RUBECULAM.

ADVENA brumalis! subeas mea tecta salutia
Nulli sub his domibus causa timoris erit.
Aspicis ut nivibus stent alta cacumina densis,
Et rostro tangi lympha superba negat.
Talibus (ut tu ipse es). generoso sanguine natis
Quid valeat sterilis bacca, humilisque cibus
Hanc mensam dapibus gravidam, variisque culinæ
Artibus aspicias—Ho tibi semper erunt.
Ante focum liceat pannis post prandia missis
Ludere desipiens, et modulare vocem;
" Ut duo, patre foras infantes eliminati,
" Errabant silvas inter, et antra necis;
" Atque tui patres foliis defuncta tegebant
" Corpora, cantantes ad tumultum *requiem*.
" Adsis et, O hospes! vinum potesque Falerni!
" Vivat amicitiæ vis, *et amoris opus*."
Regi, — Consorti, — natis, — prolique, — *Salutem*.
Atque "*tuæ uxori*," quæ nemora inter abest.
Denique "*Eborenoi Domini*," (nunc hic sicut est mos)
Maturum, ridens amphora! funde merum.
Deinde avis! incolumis manens volitesq; per ædes.
Donec concoctas ver gerat almus opes.

CAPT. SNUG.

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* The ballad of "The Children in the Wood."

† Capital port of the vintage, 1786.

‡ The recent marriage of the Duke of York with the Princess of Prussia.